

Chapter 25

YOUNG OFFENDERS

Standards in this chapter relate to the organizational and operational aspects dealing with young offenders.

Given the special legal status of young offenders, criteria should be developed that govern when young offenders should or should not be taken into custody. In addition, procedures should be established for the interrogation and temporary detention of young offenders, once taken into custody.

25.1 Organization and Administration

25.1.1 A written directive states that the department is committed to the development and perpetuation of programs designed to prevent and control delinquency of young offenders.

Comments: Although the enforcement of laws with respect to young offenders is obviously a major objective, it is also necessary to emphasize the need for police departments to engage in activities and design programs geared toward young offenders. (M M M)

25.1.2 A written directive establishes provisions for review of the department policy and procedures in relation to the Young Offenders Act.

Comments: Because under law young persons have special status in the criminal justice system, the department must ensure that its policies are consistent with the current legislation and practise. (M M M)

25.2 Operations

25.2.1 A written directive governs the arrest or detention of young persons.

Comments: The intent of this standard is to ensure compliance with the Young Offenders Act. (M M M)

25.2.2 A written directive establishes procedures regarding young offenders who have been taken into custody, to include:

- o notifying the young offenders immediately of their constitutional rights; and
- o notifying the young offenders' parents or guardians.

Comments: The intent of the standard is to ensure compliance with the Young Offenders Act. (M M M)

25.2.3 A written directive governs procedures for the custodial interrogation of young offenders, to include provisions for the following:

- o conferring with parents or guardians; and**
- o limiting the duration of interrogation and the number of officers engaging in the interrogation.**

Comments: None. (M M M)

25.2.4 A written directive requires the department to have a school liaison program and includes provisions for the following responsibilities of school liaison officers:

- o acting as resources with respect to crime prevention;**
- o providing guidance on ethical issues in a classroom setting;**
- o providing individual counselling to students; and**
- o explaining the police role in society.**

Comments: School liaison programs can also provide a forum through which students, parents, faculty, and police officers can become acquainted and, as a result, earn mutual respect. (M M M)

25.2.5 A written directive establishes procedures for the collection, dissemination, and retention of fingerprints, photographs, and other forms of identification pertaining to young offenders.

Comments: The intent of this standard is to ensure compliance with the Young Offenders Act. (M M M)