

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES JUVENILE INSTITUTIONS	
Subject: Requests for Protection	Policy Number: 6
Number of Pages: 2	Section: VIII
Attachments	Related Standards & References
	ACA
Effective Date: June 7, 2007	Approved:  Kathy Pittman, Director

I. POLICY:

It is the policy of the Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Youth Services (DYS), in the event of a genuine threat to a youth's life or in the event of a youth requesting protection from harm will be afforded a safe, secure and constitutional living condition.

II. DEFINITIONS

As used in this policy and procedure, the following definitions apply:

- A. Protection – ensuring youth a safe, secure and constitutional living condition, beyond routine care, custody and supervision
- B. Genuine Threat – a determination reached by the Shift Supervisor that supports a threat exists. This determination may be reached temporarily based on presenting facts or conclusively based on the collection of written statements and other evidence.
- C. Temporary – up to and not to exceed forty eight (48) hours.
- D. Close Supervision – line of sight supervision for the first twenty four hours following the placement in an alternative housing unit

III. PROCEDURE

All requests for reclassification of a youth to an alternative living unit must be forwarded and arranged by the respective treatment team. Placement of any youth in a temporary alternative housing unit must be approved by the Shift Supervisor and the Duty Administrator; and only after a determination that a need for *protection* exists.

- A. **General** – The following general requirements apply to requests for protection.
 - 1. All personnel, counselors, i.e. teachers, direct care staff, etc. must be ever vigilant to ensure safe, secure and constitutional living conditions for all youth.

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2. All personnel receiving any request for protection must immediately report the circumstance to their immediate supervisor, or in the case of the absence of their immediate supervisor, the Shift Supervisor.

B. Shift Supervisor - Prior to authorizing the temporary placement of any youth in an alternative housing unit, the Shift Supervisor must:

1. Consider all alternative housing units for the one most appropriate to the youth's risk need level. Placing a youth in the Observation Management Unit should be considered the least desirable alternative.
2. Obtain a written statement from the youth (and witnesses, if any) documenting the circumstances supporting the determination of a need for protection.
3. Consult with the Duty Administrator and obtain the Duty Administrator's approval.
4. Complete an Incident Report, document the request, determination and/or placement in an alternative living unit.

C. Care, Custody and Supervision of Youth Requesting Protection – If a youth is moved for protection purposes, the following must be followed:

1. Youth placed in an alternative housing unit will be afforded close (line of sight) supervision during the first twenty-four (24) hours.
2. Youth placed in an alternative housing unit will be afforded all rights, services and programs.
3. Should the OMU be selected as the appropriate, temporary alternative housing unit for a youth in need of protection, he or she may not be confined in a locked room at anytime other than during sleep hours.