



MICHIGAN CENTER *for* YOUTH JUSTICE

## Remove Youth from Confinement in Michigan

**State and local officials, law enforcement, courts, and youth detention and residential facilities must act swiftly to protect youth and staff.**

- 1. Law enforcement should decline to make an arrest for minor disciplinary issues.**
  - a. If an arrest must be made, law enforcement agencies should take full advantage of the option to counsel and release the youth to their parents/guardians.
  - b. If they must be detained, youth should be released from detention as quickly as possible.
  
- 2. Immediately halt new admissions to youth detention and residential facilities and initiating the removal of youth from those facilities, by:**
  - a. Examining all pre- and post-adjudication release processes and mechanisms and begin employing these as quickly as possible;
  - b. Removing youth who have COVID-19 symptoms, chronic illnesses, such as asthma or diabetes, other serious illnesses, or are in need of medical care;
  - c. Eliminating any form of youth detention and residential facility placement for youth unless a determination is made that a youth is a substantial and immediate safety risk to others.
  
- 3. For youth who must remain in confinement, facilities must reduce the risk of exposure without compromising children's safety, mental health or legal rights, by:**
  - a. Providing written and verbal communications to youth on COVID-19, access to medical care, and community-based supports;
  - b. Using video conferencing to ensure access to:
    - i. Family
    - ii. Education; and,
    - iii. Legal counsel;
  - c. Guaranteeing access to unlimited, free phone calls.
  
- 4. For youth who will be released from custody, facility staff must ensure they:**
  - a. Have a place to live;
  - b. Can meet their basic needs;
  - c. Will receive immediate & adequate medical care; and,
  - d. Have immediate access to Medicaid.



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**5. For youth on court-ordered probation:**

- a. Prohibit out-of-home confinement as an option for technical violations of probation;
- b. Allow youth to travel and access medical care, stay isolated when necessary, and take care of themselves and their families;
- c. Eliminate requirements for in-person meetings with their probation officers;
- d. Place a moratorium on all requirements to attend and pay for court-ordered programming and complete community service requirements.