





San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department

Juvenile Hall Policy and Procedures Manual

Chapter 5 - Youth Rights

Policy Number:	5.04
Policy Name:	Access to the Media
Authority:	
Replaces:	12.03 Access to the Media (05/01/2000)
Effective Date:	January 1, 2019
Revision Date:	November 13, 2018
Related Policies and Procedures:	5.03 - Youth Rights and Responsibilities
Related Forms:	
Director of Juvenile Hall:	Bobby Uppal 
Chief Probation Officer:	Katherine Weinstein Miller 

I. POLICY

Juvenile Hall provides all youth with reasonable access to the public through the communications media subject only to the limitations necessary to maintain facility order and security and to protect youth rights. Media interview requests shall be submitted in writing and requires written consents from the youth's parent/legal guardian and legal representative.

II. General Procedures

Juvenile Hall shall insure youth have reasonable access to the public through the communications media subject to the limitations necessary to maintain order and security as well as to protect the youth's rights.

A. News Media Requests

A news media representative who wishes to visit or conduct an interview shall contact the Office of the Chief Probation Officer to request authorization. If access is granted, the news media representative shall make an appointment with the Director of Juvenile Hall. Prior to approval, the news media shall agree to abide by all rules and regulations of the facility.

- i. A request for an interview may be denied if written consent has not been obtained from the youth's parent/legal guardian and legal representative.
- ii. A youth is not to be personally identified in an interview either by:
 - a. Identifiable descriptions
 - b. Photography or videography which might reveal the identity of the youth.

B. Facility Visits

- i. All media representatives shall make advance arrangements for visits.
- ii. Media representatives may request authorization to photograph programs and activities in the facility and meet with the youths involved.
- iii. Use of a youth's name and identifiable photographs or voice recordings is strictly prohibited.
- iv. The Director of Juvenile Hall may suspend media visits during a facility emergency.
- v. A youth detained in the facility may not act as a reporter or publish under a byline.

C. Personal Interviews

Personal interviews with youth shall be conducted within the framework mentioned above and in addition to:

- i. A youth may not receive compensation or anything of value for an interview.
- ii. Either a youth or a media representative may initiate a request for a personal interview.
- iii. The Juvenile Hall Officer of the Day shall notify a youth's parent/legal guardian and legal representative prior to the interview.
- iv. The Chief Probation Officer shall approve or disapprove an interview request within 48 hours.
- v. Any disapproval shall be documented. A denial may be given for any of the following reasons:

- a. Refusal or failure to adhere to any of the foregoing conditions.
- b. The youth is physically or mentally unable to participate. This shall be substantiated by the Medical Staff in writing and a copy placed in the youth's record.
- c. The youth's written consent is not completed.
- d. The interview, in the opinion of the Chief Probation Officer, would endanger the health or safety of the interviewer or would adversely affect the order of the facility.
- e. The youth is involved in a pending court action and the court, having jurisdiction, has issued an order forbidding such interviews.
- f. The juvenile is a "protection" case and notice of his whereabouts would endanger the youth's safety.