

A young Black man is the central figure, sitting and looking directly at the camera with a serious, contemplative expression. His right hand is pressed against his forehead, with fingers spread. He is wearing a plain white t-shirt and blue denim jeans. The background is a stark, bright white, which makes the subject stand out. On the far left, there is a solid dark blue vertical bar that serves as a design element. The overall mood is one of vulnerability and the need for support.

Detention

Know your Legal Rights and Speak Up for Yourself!

This booklet was written in collaboration with the Center for Children's Advocacy.

This booklet is an informational guide only and is not intended as legal advice for an individual situation.

Connecticut Judicial Branch
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Detention

Know your legal rights.

You have rights in detention. This book tells you about your legal rights and about what the residential center staff and others have to do to keep you safe.

Your voice counts.
If things are not going right for you,

Speak up for yourself!
Tell someone what you need.

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What are my legal rights in detention?

- You have the right to have your own lawyer. If you or your parents or guardians are unable to afford a lawyer, a lawyer will be provided at no cost to you.
- You have the right to know what crimes you are accused of.
- **You have the right to refuse to talk to police or anyone else** about your charges.
- You have the right to have your parents with you when police question you.
- Residential center staff must attempt to notify your parent or guardian when you are brought to detention.



What does my lawyer do?

- **Your lawyer represents you in court to protect your legal rights.**
Your lawyer does not represent your parents or guardians.
- Your lawyer will listen to you and discuss your case with you.
- Your lawyer will answer your questions about your case and your legal rights.
- Discussing the case with your lawyer is confidential, but there are exceptions.

Make sure to ask your lawyer what kinds of things he or she may have to tell other people.

Your lawyer cannot tell someone what you say about the case unless you say it's okay.

- You have a right not to tell anyone what you and your lawyer talk about.

How do I contact my lawyer?

- If you don't know your lawyer's name or phone number, ask staff to find out for you, or call the Public Defender's office. See page 28 for phone numbers.
- The fastest way to get in touch with your lawyer is to call. You can also write letters to your lawyer. Write your lawyer's name and contact information on the Important Contacts Card you got with this booklet so you will have it when you need it.
- If your lawyer doesn't return your phone calls, and your lawyer is a public defender or assigned counsel, you can call the Office of the Public Defender and ask to talk to the supervising attorney. See page 28 for phone numbers.
- If you don't hear from your lawyer when you call and write letters, you can write to the court and ask the court to appoint a different lawyer to represent you. You should explain why you are asking for a different lawyer. See page 26 for mailing addresses.

Can I be kept in detention before a court hearing?

Yes.

But you have a right to a hearing in front of a judge on the day after your arrest (not counting Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays).

Can a judge keep me in detention before my trial?

Yes.

The court can keep you in detention before you have a trial if the judge finds that you probably did the acts you are charged with, there is no less restrictive alternative to detention available, **and one of these is true**:

- The level of risk you pose to the community is too great to let you return home before the trial ends.
- You might not show up for your court hearing if you are allowed to leave because you have failed to appear in court before.
- You are wanted in another state.

A court order for detention can last up to 7 days.

You cannot be held longer than seven days unless you go back to court and the judge orders you to go to detention again.

Will I go to court in shackles?

Yes.

You will be taken to court in shackles, but they may be removed when you go inside the courtroom.

- For your safety and the safety of others, you will be placed in full shackles by the Central Transportation Unit or residential center staff when you go to and from court.
- If you are pregnant, belly shackles and leg restraints will not be used.
- You will stay in full shackles while you are in the court holding area.
- The Judge or Judicial Marshal will review the residential center's recommendation on whether your shackles should be removed while you are in court.



Can detention center staff search me and my things?

Yes.

- Staff can do frisk searches, searches of areas used by you, and general searches of the residential center.
- You may be strip searched when you first get to detention, when you come back to detention after leaving the property, or if the residential center staff thinks you may have items that are considered dangerous or not allowed in detention, like weapons, tobacco, drugs or alcohol.
- The staff has to tell you about a frisk or strip search before they do it.
- Searches of boys can be done only by male staff, and searches of girls can be done only by female staff. If you identify as LGBTQIA+, you can be strip or frisk searched only by a staff member of the preferred gender chosen by you.

What should I do if I was searched in a way that broke the rules?

- You should tell your lawyer as soon as possible.
- You can complain to the Superintendent of the residential center.
- You have a right to file a written complaint. This is called a grievance. See page 20 for information on how to file a grievance.

Can my lawyer visit me in detention?

Yes.

Your lawyer can visit you during the day and early evening hours.

- Your lawyer is a “professional visit” and does not need to be on your visitor list.
- **You have a right to talk to your lawyer in private.**
Your conversations with your lawyer about the case are confidential.
You have a right not to tell anyone what you talked about with your lawyer.
- If you think you were wrongly denied a visit with your lawyer or the right to speak with your lawyer privately, you have a right to file a written complaint. This is called a grievance. See page 20 for information on how to file a grievance.



Can my family visit me in detention?

Yes.

- You and your CPO (Classification and Program Officer) will make a list of family members or persons important to you who can visit during scheduled visiting hours.

You may be visited by up to three (3) persons at the same time not counting children under the age of six (6).

Your family are your parents, legal guardian, stepparents, foster parents, siblings, grandparents, children, or legal spouse. Persons important to you could be your godparent, in-laws, coach, or a mentor.

Other rules about visits from family:

- If there are people you want to see who are not on your visitor list, get permission from the residential center Superintendent.
- Staff cannot limit the number of visits you have as long as the visits are during normal visiting hours.
- You should be able to visit for about an hour, as long as it is during normal visiting hours.
- You should be allowed to visit on weekends and holidays.
- Staff cannot stop you from visiting unless the Superintendent finds that the visit violates security or endangers the safety of residents, visitors, staff, or the community.

If you think you were wrongly denied a visit, you have a right to file a written complaint. This is called a grievance. See page 20 for information on how to file a grievance. You should also tell your lawyer.

Can my DCF worker or Probation Officer visit me?

Yes.

- Your DCF worker and Probation Officer are “professional visits” and do not need to be on your visitor list.
- If you don’t know who your DCF worker is, or you don’t know how to contact him or her, ask detention staff or call the DCF office. Phone numbers are listed on page 27.
- You have a right to speak to your DCF worker or Probation Officer in private.
- If your DCF worker doesn’t visit you, call the DCF Supervisor. Phone numbers of DCF offices are on page 27.

Can my clergy visit me in detention?

Yes.

- Clergy such as priests, ministers, imams, pastors, and rabbis can visit you any time during the day and early evening.
- Your clergy is a “professional visitor” and does not need to be on your visitor list.
- If you think you were wrongly denied a visit with your clergy, you have a right to file a written complaint. This is called a grievance. See page 20 for information on how to file a grievance.

Will my visitors be screened before the visit?

Yes.

- Visitors must go through a metal detector before entering the center.
- Staff can search your visitor's personal property if they think the visitor may be carrying items that are considered dangerous or not allowed in detention, like weapons, tobacco, drugs or alcohol. Your visitor must give permission for his or her personal property to be searched.
- If your visitor refuses to go through a metal detector or to have their personal property searched, staff will not allow you to visit with that person.
- Visitors must be dressed appropriately. They will be provided a locker to store items not allowed at the center during visits.

Can I use the phone to make or get calls?

Yes.

- You have a right to call your parent(s), the person who usually takes care of you, or your legal guardian, at least once a day. These calls are free.
- You can make phone calls at certain times of the day. The center staff will tell you the times you can call and the time limits for your calls.
- You have a right to call your lawyer, probation officer, and DCF worker. These calls are free for you. You can make and receive these calls during most daytime and early evening hours.

You have a right to privacy when you are talking with your lawyer or someone from the court. No one can monitor, listen to, or record these conversations.

Can I send and receive letters?

Yes.

There is no limit on the number of letters you may write or receive.

Can staff read letters to or from my lawyer?

No.

- **Letters you write to your lawyer**, the court, or most other government officials **cannot be opened or read** by the staff.
- **Letters from your lawyer** or the court **can be opened** by staff only in your presence, but **can never be read**.

When you write to your lawyer:

- Write “ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED CORRESPONDENCE” on the top of the letter and on the envelope, so staff knows not to read it.
- Ask staff for a special envelope marked “PRIVILEGED CORRESPONDENCE” for any letter that you send to your lawyer, the court, or other government officials.



Can staff read my other letters?

Yes.

The letters you send and receive will be checked by staff to make sure they do not say anything that is against the rules. The residential center staff can refuse to deliver or send a letter if the letter includes:

- Items considered dangerous or not allowed in detention, like weapons, tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or sexually explicit materials.
- Plans to escape.
- Plans to break center rules.
- Plans for criminal activity.
- Information that would create a clear and present danger of violence and physical harm to a person.
- Information written in code.
- Threats to safety or security of staff, other detainees, or the public.

The center can refuse to deliver or send any mail if it is:

- To or from a juvenile at another facility, other than your immediate family.
- Addressed to someone other than a parent/guardian in a correctional facility.
- To the victim of your crime.
- To anyone under 18 if your parent or guardian objects.
- To someone the judge ordered you not to communicate with.
- Not signed by you or does not have a complete mailing address.
- Attempts to forward unauthorized correspondence for another juvenile.

How do I know if my letter wasn't sent or I didn't get a letter that was sent to me?

You have a right to written notice if staff refuses to mail one of your letters or to give you a letter or something enclosed with a letter someone sent to you.

If you disagree with staff's decision not to deliver a letter, you have a right to ask to review the decision. To ask to review a decision, put your request in writing to the Deputy Director of Juvenile Residential Services.

- If staff decides not to deliver a letter you wrote, you have 5 days to submit your written request for review.
- If staff decides not to give you a letter that was sent to you, you have 10 days to submit your written request for review.

Do I have a right to participate in physical activities?

Yes.

- You have a right to one hour of large muscle exercise and one hour of leisure time activity daily, with an additional hour on weekends and holidays.
- You have a right to do your physical exercise outside, unless the weather is bad.
- You must have at least one hour every day for other activities like card games, board games, and arts and crafts. Watching television does not count.
- If you can't participate in planned activities because of a disability, the residential center staff must offer you other activities.



Will I be able to go to school?

Yes.

- You have a right to an education. All residential centers must allow you to attend school for at least five hours each school day when school is in session.
- If you are a special education student, you have a right to receive the special education services required by your individualized education plan (IEP).
- The credits you earn should be accepted by your regular school.
- If you are not receiving at least five hours of education each day, tell your lawyer as soon as possible or call the Center for Children's Advocacy. The phone number is on page 28.



Can I see a doctor if I get sick?

Yes.

All detention centers must have medical, dental and mental health staff for you.

If you feel sick, or if you want to see a doctor:

- Tell a staff member that you feel sick or that you want to see medical, dental or mental health provider; or
- If you don't need to see a doctor right away, you can fill out a Sick Call Request Form and put it in the locked medical request box. Staff will show you where the locked medical request box is.
- You do not have to tell staff the reason you want to see a doctor. If you think it's an emergency, you must give enough information for staff to decide if you really need emergency care.
- If it is not an emergency, medical staff will review your request and respond within 24 hours.
- Most of the things you tell your doctor, psychologist, or psychiatrist are confidential, but there are exceptions. Ask your healthcare provider to tell you what kinds of things he or she might have to tell other people.
- All center staff, doctors and your CPO, are Mandated Reporters. This means that if you say anything that makes them think you are going to hurt yourself or someone else, they have to report what you said to the Department of Children and Families. They also have to report it if someone has physically hurt you or sexually abused you.

If the court orders it, a social worker, psychiatrist or psychologist who does not work for the residential center may come see you. The things you tell this person are not confidential and can be shared with the court.

Can I talk with a therapist if I am sad or upset?

Yes.

Tell a staff member, or fill out a Sick Call Request Form.

- If you want to see a therapist, you do not have to tell staff why or what you want to talk about.
- Most of the things you tell your therapist are confidential, but there are exceptions. Ask your therapist to tell you what kinds of things he or she might have to tell other people.



What if the Judge orders a Forensic Clinical Assessment by a Clinical Coordinator?

- A Clinical Coordinator is a licensed mental health professional with specialized forensic training employed by the Judicial Branch to provide consultation and court ordered forensic clinical assessments to the Juvenile Court on issues related to delinquency and behavioral/mental health.
- You should talk to your lawyer first and ask any questions you have about the process and explanation of what a Forensic Clinical Assessment is. This assessment can be conducted before and after the adjudication.
- You have the right to have your lawyer present during the assessment interview.
- You have the right to refuse to answer questions or take part in the interview. If you do this, the Clinical Coordinator will report this back to the court.
- The assessment may take place in person or virtually.
- The Clinical Coordinator has a set timeframe to complete the assessment and submit a report to the court.
- The Clinical Coordinator will make attempts to contact individuals and organizations (your guardian, DCF SW, mentor, school(s), programs, etc.) to gather additional relevant collateral information. Your parent/guardian will be asked to sign a Release of Information to allow access to such information.
- During the assessment you will be asked questions related to your court involvement, social, emotional, and behavioral/mental health. The Clinical Coordinator will then provide a Service Memorandum to the parties (your lawyer, state's attorney, judge, probation officer, etc.) with recommendations designed to assist you and others involved in resolving your case, and to help you become successful member of your family, school, and the larger community. In some instances, the Clinical Coordinator may recommend additional assessments. Your lawyer will review with you and your guardian the recommendations offered by the Clinical Coordinator.
- The Forensic Clinical Assessment report is confidential and it cannot be released to any third party without a court order.

Can staff use physical force against me?

Yes.

- Staff can use physical force against you **only to protect the staff, protect other kids, prevent serious property damage, or prevent you from escaping from the residential center.**
- **Staff cannot use physical force to harass or punish you, or just to make you follow the rules. Force may be used to ensure a lawful order when noncompliance will jeopardize the safety of a person or seriously threaten the security of the center.**
- Handcuffs or other mechanical restraints can be used for taking you from one place to another or to regain control over you but only as an option of last resort.
- If force is used against you, a staff member has to speak with you after things are calm and make a report of the incident.

What do I do if I think staff used force against me in a way that broke the rules?

If force is used against you by staff and you fight back, you could get arrested even if you think they are breaking the rules, or you could make the situation worse and get hurt.

- You have a right to file a written complaint. This is called a grievance. Read the next two pages about how to file a grievance.
- Tell your lawyer what happened as soon as possible.



What if I have a complaint about something that happened to me at the residential center?

If you have a complaint about something that happened to you, like the way staff talks to you, things that got stolen, other kids bothering you, or if staff breaks the rules:

- You can talk to a Shift Supervisor or Deputy Superintendent, or fill out a Request Form that tells them what you are complaining about; or
- If you are not satisfied with the response to your request, you can make a written complaint. This is called a grievance.
- Tell your lawyer about the complaint.

How do I file a written grievance?

Fill out a Grievance Form.

You have to write down your complaint and what you want done about it.

- If you don't know where to get a grievance form or if you need help with it, ask staff or your attorney for help.
- Within 48 hours (not counting weekends and holidays), the Superintendent must tell you, in writing, what will be done about your complaint.
- If you don't like what the Superintendent did about your complaint, or you don't get an answer in 48 hours (not counting weekends and holidays), or you do not want to go to the Superintendent first, you can send the Grievance Form to the Deputy Director of Juvenile Residential Services at the Court Support Services Division (CSSD) at the address on page 21.
- If you need help filling out the form, ask a staff member or your attorney to help.
- **You can contact the Ombudsperson at any time about your complaint.**
The Ombudsperson does not work for the residential center. Their job is to try to help you with your complaint. You can also file a grievance with the Ombudsperson by filling out a Grievance Form and putting it in the locked boxed that says Ombudsperson. Staff will show you where these boxes are.

Can I file with Court Support Services (CSSD)?

Yes.

You can file a grievance with Juvenile Residential Services at the Court Support Services Division (CSSD). There are two ways to send your grievance to the Deputy Director of Juvenile Residential Services at CSSD:

- If the Detention Center has a sealed box for grievances to the Deputy Director of Juvenile Residential Services, you can put your grievance in that box.
- Your parent or legal guardian may also email complaints to the Ombudsperson at:
CSSD_ombudsregiona@jud.ct.gov
CSSD_ombudsregionb@jud.ct.gov
- If the center does not have a sealed box for this, mail the form to:

Director of Juvenile Residential Services
Connecticut Judicial Branch
Court Support Services Division
455 Winding Brook Drive
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Can I get in trouble for filing a complaint or grievance?

No.

The staff cannot threaten, coerce, or punish you for filing a complaint or grievance.





Can I go back to school when I get out of detention?

You have the right to go back to the school you went to before detention.

If you are going back to your old school, talk to your guidance counselor about getting back into classes. If your old school does not have the right grade for you, they should place you in another school in your town or district.

If you are going to school in a new district, go to the main office to enroll.

You have the right to start school again right away.

The residential center should send your education records to the school when the school tells them you have re-enrolled. You have the right to start school right away even if the school has not gotten your education records from the center yet.

The school cannot make you wait until statewide testing, exams or finals are over.

If the school says you cannot attend because you are no longer a resident, they must give you written notice of this. You have the right to ask for a hearing about your residency and your right to go to school there.

Can I be expelled for the offense I went to detention for?

No.

When you go back to school, you cannot be expelled for an offense you already spent time in detention for.

Can I talk to someone about being LGBTQIA+?

(Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual)

You can talk with any residential center staff about questions you have or information you want. You can also ask to talk to healthcare staff about this.

Detention staff, including healthcare staff, may tell each other that you talked about this but they cannot tell anyone who is not on staff.

How will I be treated if I am LGBTQIA+?

You have the right to be treated equally and respectfully by other juveniles and by staff.

Staff should talk with you as soon as possible after you are admitted to be sure that you feel safe and that your privacy is respected.

If you do not feel safe with your roommate, tell the staff. Ask them to give you a single room.

You should not be forced to undress or shower in front of others if it makes you feel uncomfortable.

What can I do if someone bothers me because I am LGBTQIA+?

If you are harassed because you are LGBTQIA+, tell your CPO or supervisor right away. You can also file a written complaint. This is called a grievance. See page 20 for how to do this.

Where can I get books or videos about being LGBTQIA+?

Ask your CPO or look in the library for reading materials and information about support groups and organizations.

You can also contact:

QPlus (email: Info@qplusct.org);

Triangle Community Center (phone: 203-853-0600 email: tcc@ctpridecenter.org);

New Haven Pride Center (phone: 203-387-2252 email: info@newhavenpridecenter.org)

What should I do if someone makes sexual advances or comments or touches me in a way I don't want?

You have a right to be free from sexual advances from other youth or from staff. Other youth and staff have the right to be free from sexual advances from you.

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) says there is zero tolerance for sexual abuse or sexual harassment in juvenile detention.

Examples of sexual advances that are not allowed include:

- When a staff member makes sexual comments to you
- When someone touches the private parts of your body without your permission
- When someone forces you to touch the private parts of their body
- Having sex
- Forcing you to have sex with someone else
- Asking you to trade sexual acts for favors



What should I do if someone pressures me for sex?

**If you feel pressured for sex, do not wait for an assault to happen.
Tell staff right away.**

Tell a Juvenile Detention Officer (JDO), Classification and Program Officer (CPO), supervisor, teacher, medical or mental health staff.

You can talk to a professional outside of detention, like your probation officer, lawyer, public defender DCF worker or judge.

You can file a written grievance. See page 20 for information on how to do this.
If you are worried about your safety, write EMERGENCY on the form and tell staff.

If you were sexually abused, do these four things immediately:

- 1.** Report the abuse to staff.
- 2.** Report the abuse to someone you trust. Call or tell them in person.
- 3.** Save the evidence.
Do not use the bathroom, brush your teeth, shower or change your clothes.
- 4.** Get support from mental health services or victim services.
Your CPO will help you. See page 17 about how to see a therapist.

To report an assault, call the Sexual Assault Hotline

1-888-999-5545 (English) or 1-888-568-8332 (Español)

Important Contact Information

Juvenile Courts

Bridgeport

Superior Court for Juvenile Matters
60 Housatonic Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604
203-579-6544

Hartford

Superior Court for Juvenile Matters
920 Broad Street
Hartford, CT 06106
860-244-7900

Middletown

Superior Court for Juvenile Matters
One Court Street
Middletown, CT 06457
860-343-2986

New Britain

Superior Court for Juvenile Matters
20 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051
860-515-5165

New Haven

Superior Court for Juvenile Matters
239 Whalley Avenue
New Haven, CT 06511
203-786-0337

Rockville

Superior Court for Juvenile Matters
25 School Street
Rockville, CT 06066
860-872-7143

Torrington

Superior Court for Juvenile Matters
410 Winsted Road
Torrington, CT 06790
860-626-2400

Waterbury

Superior Court for Juvenile Matters
7 Kendrick Avenue
Waterbury, CT 06702
203-596-4202

Waterford

Superior Court for Juvenile Matters
978 Hartford Turnpike
Waterford, CT 06385
860-440-5880

Willimantic

Superior Court for Juvenile Matters
81 Columbia Avenue
Willimantic, CT 06226
860-456-5700

Important Phone Numbers

Department of Children and Families

Area Offices

Bridgeport	203-384-5300
Danbury	203-207-5100
Hartford	860-418-8000
Manchester	860-533-3600
Meriden	203-238-8400
Middletown	860-638-2100
New Britain	860-832-5200
New Haven	203-786-0500
Norwalk	203-899-1400
Norwich	860-886-2641
Torrington	860-496-5700
Waterbury	203-759-7000
Willimantic	860-450-2000

DCF Commissioner's Office..... 860-550-6300

DCF Ombudsman's Office 860-550-6301 or toll free 866-637-4737

DCF Careline..... 800-842-2288 or TDD number 800-624-5518

Important Phone Numbers

Juvenile Public Defender's Offices

Bridgeport.....	203-579-6599
Hartford.....	860-244-7940
Middletown	860-344-2986
New Britain	860-515-5222
New Haven.....	203-786-0346
Rockville	860-872-7143
Torrington.....	860-626-2120
Waterford.....	860-440-5870
Waterbury	203-596-4179
Willimantic	860-456-5730
Office of Chief Public Defender, Child Protection Services	860-566-1341

Center for Children's Advocacy 860-570-5327

Office of the Child Advocate..... 860-566-2106

Sexual Assault Hotline 888-999-5545 (English) 888-568-8332 (Español)

