

**Juvenile Justice Commission
of San Diego County**

Jails and Lockups 2018 Inspection Report

2017 Yearly Statistics (from Log Books)

0 # **Secure** detentions **OVER** 6 hours

8 # **Secure** detentions **UNDER** 6 hours

0 # **Non-secure** detentions **OVER** 6 hours

111 # **Non-secure** detentions **UNDER** 6 hours

Authority: Pursuant to Welfare & Institutions Code Section 209(b), a judge of the juvenile court shall conduct an annual inspection, either in person or through a delegated member of the appropriate county or regional juvenile justice commission, of any law enforcement facility that contains a lockup for adults which, in the preceding year, was used for the secure detention of any minor.

Facility Name: SDSO – Vista Station
Address: 325 South Melrose, Ste. 210
Vista, CA 92081

Date of Inspection: 12/19/2018
Date of Last Inspection: 12/22/2017
Phone Number: 760-940-4551

Facility Manager: Captain Greg Rylaarsdam

Contact Person: Sgt. Martha Hernandez

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge: Hon. Kimberlee A. Lagotta
Commission Chair: Amy Lansing
Phone No.: 858-634-1555

I. GENERAL COMMENTS:

For CY 2017, the Vista Station was in full compliance with the state standards governing law enforcement facilities in which minors are held in temporary custody. Among the many positive aspects of the Station's policies and procedures, the Station's custody logs continue to be exceptionally well-organized. Sgt. Laura Whalen has taken over for Sgt. Hernandez, and she and her training from Sgt. Hernandez are to be commended for their thorough record-keeping and continued commitment to conveying written information with clarity. It is to be noted, that Sgt. Hernandez was able to follow up with the recommendation of utilizing the call logs to ensure compliance with Welfare and Institutions Code § 627(b). Additionally, the facility continues to hold Juveniles in the same manner as previously documented, and continues to appear genuinely committed to ensuring minors are held in custody in a way that respects the dignity of the minor, while ensuring officer safety.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS (if any):

The Juvenile Justice Commission offers the following recommendations to the Vista Station:

1. BSCC forms and reporting requirements have recently changed. The JJCPA and WIC §206 and §207 prohibit the Secure detention of status offenders (WIC §601) and nonoffenders (WIC §300/WIC §5150). Any violations must be reported to the BSCC on the Monthly Report on the Detention of Minors. For more information, please refer to the section on Youth in Adult Detention Facilities on the BSCC webpage: http://www.bscc.ca.gov/s_fsoservices.php

2. We recommend officers provide a one-sentence written explanation in the secure custody log whenever a minor's status changes from non-secure to secure custody. Although officers at the Station document the reasons for secure custody by "circling" whichever pre-printed words on the form are relevant, a one-sentence explanation for the secure custody determination will protect against arbitrariness and allow for more meaningful review of the decision.
3. To prevent unnecessarily holding minors in secure detention, we recommend training for all officers in contact with minors prior to holding them in custody. There was a notation of two minors held in secure custody for three minutes before being moved to non-secure due to misunderstanding of new trainee.

The following questions are used to assess compliance with the state standards governing law enforcement facilities in which minors are held in temporary custody. See Article 9, *Minors in Temporary Custody in a Law Enforcement Facility*, Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations (15 Cal. Code Regs. §§ 1140–1151)

III. CONDITIONS OF DETENTION:

- | | |
|--|---|
| A. Are minors provided with orientation? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| B. Are they informed of the purpose of detention? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| C. Are they told the length of time detention is expected to last? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| D. Are they informed of the six-hour maximum time limit? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

IV. CONDITIONS OF SECURE DETENTION (e.g. cell/locked room):

- A. What is the proximity of minors to adult inmates?
- Approximately 15-20 feet. To the extent minors and adult inmates ever come near other, such contact is incidental, occurring only in passing. The locations where minors and adults are held in custody are out of eyesight of each other.
- B. What is the ability and frequency of staff to supervise minor?
- Supervising officer is positioned behind a glass window directly across from the minor(s), providing constant direct visual observation.
- | | |
|--|---|
| C. Is there constant auditory access to staff? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| D. Are minors provided with a snack if requested? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| E. Do minors have access to toilets and washing facilities? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| F. Do minors have access to a drinking fountain or water? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| G. Are there provisions to provide clothing or blankets to assure comfort? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

V. CONDITIONS OF SECURE DETENTION OUTSIDE A LOCKED ENCLOSURE:

(this includes minors who are handcuffed to a fixed object such as a rail, bench, chair or table):

- | | |
|--|---|
| A. Are minors assured no "contact" with adult inmates? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|--|---|

- B. Is there constant supervision? Yes No
- C. Is there a 30-minute limit and Watch Commander approval every 30 minutes thereafter? Yes No
- D. Are minors placed in cell when one becomes available? Yes No
N/A; minors are not placed in cells.
- E. Do minors have access to toilet and washing facilities? Yes No
- F. Is there access to a drinking fountain? Yes No

VI. CONDITIONS OF NON-SECURE DETENTION:

- A. Is there direct and constant supervision by staff during the entire custody period? Yes No
- B. Are males and females put in same room? Yes No

The general policy is to keep males and females separate whenever possible, although space constraints may, on rare occasion, prevent this. The youth detention areas are in the same large open room, separated by a wall.

VII. INTOXICATED MINORS:

- A. Does the facility have written procedures for the handling of minors under the influence of any intoxicating substances? Yes No
- B. Did the facility detain any minors, either secure or non-secure, determined to be under the influence of an intoxicating substance? Yes No

If yes:

1. Was medical clearance obtained? Yes No
2. Were these detentions documented? Yes No
3. If the detention was secure, were there documented safety checks no less than once every 15 minutes? Yes No
4. If the detention was non-secure, was the minor in the constant presence of staff? Yes No
5. Who provides medical clearance for these minors?

When medical clearance is necessary, such clearance is provided by Tri-City Medical Center or the Fire Department.

VIII. DOCUMENTATION:

- A. Are all mandated visual checks documented? Yes No
- B. Are secure/non-secure detention logs used? Yes No
- C. Do the detention logs list the offense and reason which formed the decision to place the minor in secure detention, as well as the length of time the minor was securely detained? Yes No

- D. Does the facility have signage posted explaining the procedures for the handling of secure / non-secure detention of minors? Yes No

- IX. **ARE THERE INSTANCES IN WHICH A MINOR(S) WAS HELD FOR MORE THAN SIX HOURS? IF YES, LIST THE DATES, STARTING AND ENDING TIME AND CIRCUMSTANCES FOR EACH INSTANCE.**

N/A.

- X. **Minors Interviewed (Comments):**

N/A.