



**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
PROBATION AND PAROLE DIVISION  
OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE**

Procedure No.: PPD 6.2.104	Subject: <b>YOUTH PLACEMENT COMMITTEES</b>	
Reference: 41-5-121, MCA; 41-5-122, MCA; 41-5-124, MCA; 41-5-125, MCA; 41-5-2005, MCA	Page 1 of 2	
Effective Date: 03/15/18	Revised:	
Signature / Title: /s/ Kevin Olson, Probation and Parole Division Administrator		

**I. PURPOSE:**

Juvenile Parole Officers are mandatory attendees at youth placement committee meetings in every judicial district in Montana. Officers will responsibly represent the interest and philosophy of the Department of Corrections.

**II. DEFINITIONS:**

None.

**III. PROCEDURES:**

**A. YOUTH PLACEMENT COMMITTEE PROCESS**

1. Pursuant to §41-5-121, MCA, the Director of the Department of Corrections shall appoint juvenile Parole Officers (PO) to youth placement committees according to:
  - a. the PO's qualifications;
  - b. the costs involved in the PO's attendance at youth placement committee meetings; and
  - c. the location of the PO's home in relation to the location of the youth placement committee.
2. POs will:
  - a. be familiar with the statutes relating the composition, duties, confidentiality, and process of youth placement committees;
  - b. maintain contact and communication with youth court services in their judicial districts regarding appropriate times/places for the committee meetings;
  - c. review written referral information received at or prior to the committee meetings;
  - d. attend the committee meetings; and
  - e. ensure that an alternate member (another PO) can attend the committee meetings in the POs absence, when possible.

**B. REPRESENTATIVE OF DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**

1. Parole Officers are representatives of the Department at youth placement committee meetings. Knowing that one alternative for placement is a youth correctional facility, POs need to be familiar with current:
  - a. population reports from youth correctional facilities;
  - b. programs and services available at youth correctional facilities;
  - c. statutes regarding youth court commitments to youth correctional facilities, including, but not limited to:
    - i. commitments that involve youth with misdemeanor offenses only (§41-5-1513, MCA);

Procedure No.: 6.2.104	Chapter: Community Corrections	Page 2 of 2
Subject: YOUTH PLACEMENT COMMITTEES		

- ii. commitments involving youth with one or more offenses that were transferred to district court (§41-5-206, MCA);
  - iii. commitments that have been prosecuted under the extended jurisdiction prosecution act (§41-5-1602, MCA); and
  - iv. commitments that have been or will be transferred for adult probation/parole supervision (§41-5-208, MCA); and
- d. placement options for youth.
- 2. POs will dissent at youth placement committee meeting votes when a referred youth is not appropriate for placement in a youth correctional facility.
  - a. Youth are not appropriate for youth correctional facility placements when they:
    - i. do not meet the statutory requirements;
    - ii. do not possess the intellectual capability to progress through the cognitive-behavioral program at a youth correctional facility; or
    - iii. have severe mental health issues that will significantly impact them from making progress in a youth correctional facility due to their need for intensive medical, psychiatric, and/or mental health services.
  - b. Due to mental health placements sometimes becoming necessary directly from a youth correctional facility, POs will make every effort to reduce the likelihood of this happening by thoroughly screening these youth during youth placement committee meetings.

#### **IV. CLOSING:**

Questions concerning this procedure should be directed to the immediate supervisor.