



# Seattle Police Department Policy Manual



## 6.290 – Juvenile Investigations and Arrests

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### 6.290-POL

This policy applies to the investigations and arrests of juveniles.

#### 1. Definitions

**Guardian:** a person designated by the court as being responsible for the child in the same manner as a parent (e.g., foster parent).

**Juvenile:** someone under 18 years of age not previously transferred to the jurisdiction of adult court.

When a juvenile's jurisdiction has been transferred from juvenile court to adult court, the juvenile is considered to have been declined.

#### 2. Sworn Employees Will Exercise Reasonable Discretion when Determining the Disposition of Juveniles

When choosing between different alternatives, sworn employees will consider the following factors:

- The nature of the offense
- The age and circumstance of the offender
- The mental health of the offender
- The prior record of the offender
- The availability of community-based rehabilitation programs
- The likelihood that the choice will satisfactorily resolve the problem

#### 3. Sworn Employees Will Use the Juvenile Miranda Language (See Manual Section [6.150 – Advising Persons of Right to Counsel and Miranda](#))

# Seattle Police Department Policy Manual

When taking a written suspect statement, sworn employees will use the Explanation of Rights (Form 9.28.1).

- To ensure that rights are understood, a sworn employee may ask a juvenile to explain each warning in their own words.

## **4. Sworn Employees Will Notify Parents of Arrest as Soon as Possible**

Sworn employees will make reasonable attempts to contact the parents or guardians of arrested juveniles to advise them of the juvenile's status and location. This will be documented in the report.

- Sworn employees will document the name, date of birth, address, and telephone number of the parent/guardian contacted.

## **5. Parents Must be Present for Juveniles Under 12 to Waive Their Rights**

A parent or guardian will be present and must waive the rights of a juvenile under the age of 12.

## **6. Sworn Employees Will Obtain Photographs and Fingerprints of Juvenile's Arrested for Certain Crimes**

Juveniles arrested for a felony or gross misdemeanor crime will be fingerprinted and photographed prior to being taken to a juvenile detention facility (see [RCW 43.43.735](#)).

(See also manual section [7.100 – Fingerprint Evidence](#) for fingerprinting and photographing juveniles)

## **7. Sworn Employees Will Obtain Statements for Juvenile Criminal Cases**

Sworn employees will obtain officer, victim, and witness statements for all juvenile criminal cases. If the sworn employee cannot obtain statements, the reason will be documented in the narrative of the report.

## **8. Sworn Employees Will Have Juveniles Transported to Children's Hospital for Involuntary Commitments**

When a sworn employee determines that a juvenile meets the criteria for an involuntary commitment, the juvenile will be transported to Children's Hospital.

(See manual section [11.020-Transportation of Detainees](#))

## **9. SPD Employees May Share Juvenile Records with Outside Juvenile Justice Agencies who are Actively Investigating the Juvenile**

# Seattle Police Department Policy Manual

The department will not release juvenile records to outside agencies for any purpose other than assistance with an active investigation. Outside agencies include "juvenile justice or care agencies":

- Per [RCW 13.50.010\(1\)\(b\)](#): "juvenile justice or care agency" means any of the following: police, diversion units, court, prosecuting attorney, defense attorney, detention center, attorney general, the oversight board for children, youth, and families, the office of the family and children's ombuds, the department of social and health services and its contracting agencies, the department of children, youth, and families and its contracting agencies, schools; persons or public or private agencies having children committed to their custody; and any placement oversight committee created under [RCW 72.05.415](#).