

<b>24.12, Access to Legal Counsel for Youth in a Youth Development Center</b>	
<b>Application:</b> All Department of Children's Services Employees and Contract Agency Staff	
<b>Authority:</b> TCA 37-5-105 (3), 37-5-106; John L. v. Adams, 969 F.2d 228	<b>Standards: ACA:</b> 5-JCF-3A-01
<b>Commissioner:</b> 	<b>Date:</b> 03/30/2026
Original Effective Date: 08/01/1990 Current Effective Date: 04/29/2026	Supersedes: 10/29/2018 Last Review Date: 10/20/2025
<b>Glossary:</b> None	

**Policy Statement:**

The Youth Development Center (YDC) Superintendent/designee will ensure that attorneys or their authorized representatives will be granted confidential access to youth for the purpose of interviewing, consulting, and providing confidential legal services to youth.

**Purpose:**

To provide the requirements to ensure youth have access to counsel, confidential contact with attorneys or their authorized representatives, and are assisted in making contact with attorneys or their authorized representative.

**Procedures:**

**A. General Requirements for Access to Legal Services**

1. Youth will be informed of their right to access legal services.
2. Legal consultation between a youth and their legal representation will be held in a private area that promotes confidentiality and maintains safety.
3. All meetings between attorneys/authorized representatives and the youth are one-on-one, unless there is a safety concern that prevents the youth and the attorney/authorized representative from meeting without the presence of other adults. If such a concern exists, the superintendent and attorney/authorized

representative will confer to coordinate the meeting at a time and in a manner that respects the attorney/client privilege

4. DCS will contract with attorneys to provide legal services to youth placed at a YDC.
5. Refer to the [\*Protocol for Access to Legal Counsel for Youth in a Youth Development Center\*](#) for more information.

**Forms:**

None

**Collateral Documents:**

[\*Protocol for Access to Legal Counsel for Youth in a Youth Development Center\*](#)