Department of Children's Services

POLICY

24.12, Access to Legal Counsel for Youth in a Youth Development Center	
Application: All Department of Children's Services Employees and Contract Agency Staff	
Authority: TCA 37-5-105 (3), 37-5-106; John L. v. Adams, 969 F.2d 228	**Standards: ACA:** 5-JCF-3A-01
Commissioner: Margie Quinn	**Date:** 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
Glossary: 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. <u>General Requirements for Access to Legal Services</u>

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