

Utah Department Of Health And Human Services Division Of Juvenile Justice And Youth Services Policy And Procedures		
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POLYGRAPH EXAMINATIONS		
<p>RATIONALE: To ensure the safety and well-being of minors in the care and custody of the Division, and to uphold ethical standards in investigative practices. Polygraph examinations are not deemed appropriate for minors due to developmental and psychological factors.</p> <p><i>Source: ATSA Practice Guidelines for Assessment, Treatment, and Intervention with Adolescents Who Have Engaged in Sexually Abusive Behavior 2017</i></p>		
Original Effective: March 7, 2003	Revision: May 30, 2025	Next Review Due: May 30, 2028

I. DESCRIPTION

This policy prohibits the use of polygraph examinations on minors within the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services (JJYS). It outlines the rationale for this prohibition and ensures the protection of minors from potentially harmful investigative practices.

II. DEFINITIONS

The following terms are defined for this policy as:

- A. **DHHS or department:** The Utah Department of Health and Human Services and collectively all its divisions, offices, and operations.
- B. **Minor:** An individual under the age of 25 and in the care, custody, or control of JJYS.
- C. **Polygraph Examination:** A procedure that measures and records several physiological indices such as blood pressure, heart rate, respiration, and skin conductivity while a person is asked and answers a series of questions. It is often used in an attempt to detect deception.

III. POLICY

- A. Polygraph examinations are strictly prohibited for all minors under the care, custody, or control of the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services.
- B. No staff member of the Division or any allied agency shall conduct, request, or facilitate a polygraph examination of a minor.

IV. PROCEDURE

- A. A staff member who becomes aware of an attempt to conduct a polygraph examination of a minor shall immediately report it to their supervisor and the assigned Program Director.
- B. Investigations involving minors shall prioritize the minor's well-being and utilize trauma-informed practices.

V. CONTINUOUS RENEWAL

This policy shall be reviewed every three years to determine its effectiveness and appropriateness. This policy may be reviewed before that time to reflect substantive change.

This policy has been reviewed by the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services Executive Management Team, and is approved upon the signature of the Director.



Brett Peterson, Director
Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services

05/30/2025

Signature Date