

Youth Justice

Youth detention - information for parents/carers

Where are Queensland's youth detention centres?

There are two detention centres in Queensland:

Brisbane Youth Detention Centre	
Address	Corner Aveyron and Wolston Park Roads, Wacol
Postal address	PO Box 517 Sumner Park Q 4074
Phone	07 3271 0605
To arrange a visit contact	07 3271 0720
Cleveland Youth Detention Centre	
Address	Old Common Road, Belgian Gardens (Townsville)
Postal address	Old Common Road Belgian Gardens Q 4810
Phone	07 4421 5222
To arrange a visit contact	07 4421 5204

Why is my child in detention?

Under the *Youth Justice Act 1992* detention centres are established to protect the safety of the community, provide consequences for offending and prepare detained young people to live productively in the community.

Your child has been sent to a youth detention centre on remand or by being sentenced.

Remand

Your child may have been remanded in custody by a court or a police watchhouse manager. Your child must remain in detention until their appearance in court. You can talk to your child's caseworker or legal representative to find out if bail is an option.

Sentenced

Your child may have been sentenced to a detention order by a court. This means that your child has been found guilty and must spend the time ordered by the court, in a youth detention centre.

If you or your child believes that the decision the court made was wrong, you can ask to have the decision reviewed or appealed. Talk to your child's caseworker or legal representative to find out how to do this.

Can I visit my child in a youth detention centre?

We encourage you to visit your child while they are in detention. To arrange a visit, contact the centre where your child is staying.

Each centre has set visiting times but you can make special arrangements if you cannot visit during these hours.

People entering a detention centre must pass a security check.

You cannot take food or gifts to your child, or banned items like cigarettes or drugs.

Visits staff can answer any questions you have about visiting your child. They will advise you of clothing standards and restricted items. There are lockers available for you to use to secure any items you cannot take into the centre.

If you live a long way from the centre, arrangements can be made with the centre for you to have video conferencing sessions with your child.

Can I send letters to my child in a youth detention centre?

You can send as many letters to your child as you like. Staff at the centre check all letters before children receive them.

Staff also check any letters your child sends to you. They will remove any restricted or inappropriate material.

Staff won't check letters to or from your child's solicitor. If you have any questions about mail contact the centre caseworker.

Can I phone my child in a youth detention centre?

All phone calls received by the centre for young people will be referred to a caseworker, team leader or shift supervisor. The caller may leave a message for the young person to phone them back at a convenient time.

Your child is allowed 90 minutes of phone time each week to talk to approved people. The caseworker will speak with you and decide who will be approved on your child's phone list. Your child's caseworker will advise you of any restrictions to who can call your child.

Your child can speak to their lawyer or case worker or the community visitor. These calls have no time limit and don't count toward their 90 minutes.

If you have to tell your child something that may upset them, let the staff know so that they can support your child.

Who do I talk to about my child while they are in detention?

When your child is admitted to the centre, they will be assigned a caseworker. They will also have a caseworker from a youth justice service centre. Your child's caseworkers are the best people to talk to about your child's progress in detention.

These caseworkers will talk to you about your child's case plan. The case plan will identify things that may have contributed to your child's offending behaviour. The case plan will also identify activities for your child to participate in, to help them to develop skills to reduce their

risk of re-offending. We will consider your child's view when developing their case plan.

You can also speak with an Indigenous caseworker or Indigenous transition officer at the centre.

Will my child be looked after?

Your child will be treated with respect and dignity at all times. They will be encouraged to treat others with respect and dignity also.

We will provide everything your child needs, like meals, clothing, shoes, bedding, toiletries and books for school. Your child can have some things sent to the centre, like family photos and their own clothes to wear to court.

Your child will have their own room wherever possible. The room has a bed, toilet, shower, desk and shelf. Your child is safe in their room. There are times during the day and night when they will be locked in their room.

Health services are provided at the centre 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you have any concerns about your child's health, you can talk to the health staff at the centre.

The centre will also organise access to a dentist, optometrist, psychologist, counselor or any other medical professionals your child requires.

If you bring or send money for your child, we hold it in a trust account for them. Your child can use money in their trust account for buy ups.

Buy ups are items available to young people for purchase on a weekly basis. Young people can use their own money and/or the government-issued weekly allowance of \$6.40 to purchase items (jointly funded by Commonwealth and State Governments).

Access to buy up items is linked to the incentive scheme. Positive behaviour provides greater access, while misbehaviour restricts access.

Buy up items may include:

- hygiene products
- magazines
- playing cards
- photo albums
- room deodorisers.

We will return any money in your child's trust account to them upon their release.

How is my child expected to behave in detention?

While in detention, your child is expected to:

- respect others
- follow reasonable instructions
- perform section duties
- have good manners
- look after their hygiene
- go to bed at bedtime
- not smoke
- not swear
- not graffiti
- not have inappropriate physical contact with other young people.

Any poor behaviour will be managed in an appropriate and consistent manner.

What will my child do each day?

Education and training is provided at the centre. Young people who are 16 years or younger must attend the school at the centre. Young people over 16 are expected to participate in education and training programs provided at the centre. They will also be involved in cultural, sporting and recreational activities.

What about temporary leave?

Your child may be granted leave from the centre to attend significant family events (including funerals), medical appointments or education and pre-employment appointments.

The centre director must approve any leave. Leave will only be given if staff believe that your child will comply with the conditions of the leave.

If your child does not comply with the conditions, the leave may be cancelled and your child will be returned to the centre immediately.

What if my child needs to go to court while in detention?

Your child may need to leave the centre to go to court or may participate in a videoconference. They can wear their own clothes to court.

What if my child or I have a complaint?

Your child can make a complaint about anything at the centre. You can also make a complaint on their behalf. Your child won't get into trouble because either of you make a complaint. Speak to a member of the management team or your child's caseworker to make a complaint.

Your child can also speak to these people or make a complaint within the centre in other ways such as contacting the community visitor or the Queensland Police Service.

Your complaint will be taken seriously and will be kept confidential, although a few people will need to know about it so it can be investigated.

Will my child be safe?

Everything possible will be done to ensure your child is safe and secure while in detention. Inappropriate behaviour, sexual harassment and discrimination are not tolerated in youth detention centres. You can contact the centre about any concerns.

A caseworker will contact you immediately if anything happens to your child.

Further information

Please contact the centre that your child is in, if you need more information