

Charter of Rights for Youths Detained in Detention Centres

You have the right:

- To be treated equally, and not treated unfairly because of your sex, sexuality, race, religion, disability or other status.
- To be treated with respect and dignity by staff and to be kept safe while you are in the youth justice centre.
- To be given a copy of and have explained to you the rules of the centre, and rights and responsibilities, in a language that you can understand.
- To see a doctor or nurse whenever you need to, have your health assessed soon after you arrive, and to receive proper healthcare.
- To receive help for your mental health if you need it, and to be transferred to a mental health facility for treatment if required.
- To get help if you have problems with drugs or alcohol.
- To have special care and protection if you are vulnerable or have special needs.
- To have regular contact with your family and friends through visits and phone calls.
- To get help to see a lawyer, and to talk to them privately.
- To have an interpreter for formal meetings or medical examinations if you are not fluent in English.
- To get information and news about what is happening in the world.
- To have a say in decisions about your rehabilitation and other issues that affect you.
- To participate in activities and programs that help your rehabilitation.
- To continue your education, or to do training to learn useful skills for work.
- To get exercise every day, and to go outside every day except in bad weather.
- To have enough good food (including food that is suitable for your culture or religion, or dietary requirements), and to have drinking water available whenever you need it.
- To have clean clothes, and to wear your own clothes if you go out of the centre.
- Not to be punished unfairly, and only in accordance with the rules of the centre or the law.
- Not to have force used against you, or restraints used on you, unless absolutely necessary, and never as a punishment.
- Not to be isolated from other young people unless necessary to keep you or others safe, and never as a punishment.
- To practice your religion or express your culture and, whenever possible, to participate in cultural celebrations and see religious or spiritual advisors.
- If you are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, whenever possible, to participate in cultural activities and celebrations with other Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.
- To make a complaint about your treatment to an independent person (like an official visitor) and to be told what happens with your complaint.
- Before you leave the centre, to get help with somewhere safe to live and ongoing support.