

Position Statement on Solitary Confinement (Restricted Housing) of Juveniles

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Position:

Solitary confinement of juveniles (also referred to as restrictive housing or segregation), with rare exceptions, should be avoided due to the potential for harm to the juveniles. Juveniles (persons under 18 years of age) are at particular risk of potential psychiatric consequences of prolonged solitary confinement, including depression, anxiety, and self-harm. In the rare case that a juvenile must be placed in solitary confinement, meaningful access to mental health care, medical care, education, and recreation should be provided in order to minimize the potential for psychological harm. Solitary confinement should never be used for punitive purposes.

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