

# Juvenile Justice Commission of San Diego County

## Jails and Lockups 2021 Inspection Report

### 2019 / 2020 Yearly Statistics (from Log Books)

0 / 2 # **Secure** detentions **OVER** 6 hours

4 / 1 # **Secure** detentions **UNDER** 6 hours

1 / 0 # **Non-secure** detentions **OVER** 6 hours

41 / 34 # **Non-secure** detentions **UNDER** 6 hours

Authority: Pursuant to Welfare & Institutions Code Section 209(b), a judge of the juvenile court shall conduct an annual inspection, either in person or through a delegated member of the appropriate county or regional juvenile justice commission, of any law enforcement facility that contains a lockup for adults which, in the preceding year, was used for the secure detention of any minor.

Please respond to sections that apply to the facility you are inspecting (type or print clearly)

Facility Name: SDCSD – Rancho San Diego Substation Date of Inspection: 11/29/2021  
Address: 11486 Campo Road Date of Last Inspection: 11/19/2019  
Rancho San Diego, CA 91978 Phone Number: 619-660-7090

Facility Manager: Lt. Michael McNeill Contact Person: Cpl. Michael Alcarion  
Phone No.: 619-660-7090 Phone No.: 619-916-8648  
Staff Assisting: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: michael.alcarion@sdsheriff.org  
Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge: Hon. Ana España  
Commission Chair: Yvette D. Klepin  
Phone No.: 858-634-1555  
Inspecting Commissioners: Amy Lansing

### I. **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

The Rancho San Diego Station is clean, well-lit and includes a designated area for minors-only with a separate entrance, separate holding area, separate restroom and a desk/computer set up for processing. Signs are posted on the doors and walls that explain minors' rights, with one exception (see below).

There are no separate spaces for male, female and/or non-binary or transgendered minors to be held. It appears that this is infrequently an issue given the number of juveniles seen on site. In the logs, notes are made if minors require separating. If there are no adults being held in lock-up, the adult holding area can be used (note that minors are still not placed in a cell). More commonly, it was reported that additional minors would sit with an officer at the officer's desk in a separate area.

### II. **RECOMMENDATIONS (if any):**

Signage outlining minors' rights need to be updated. Currently, signs explaining minor's rights do not include the six-hour hold limit. This detail is in an orientation binder and is supposed to be disclosed verbally by the officer on watch, but signs should also include the six-hour limit. This was discussed with Michael Alcarion and will be followed-up on during the next visual inspection.

Careful and accurate reporting of minors held over six hours is recommended, as Rancho SDCSO under-reported the number of minors held over the six-hour limit. While the total number of secure detentions reported in 2019 (four) and 2020 (three) were correct, errors in reporting >6-hour holds were found in both years. One additional >6 hour hold in each year should have been reported. The logs clearly documented the actual length that the minors were held (see details below), but BSCC monthly reporting logs were incorrect. This was also discussed with Michael Alcarion, and the reviewing JCC member requested that corrections be sent to BSCC.

The following questions are used to assess compliance with the state standards governing law enforcement facilities in which minors are held in temporary custody. See Article 9, *Minors in Temporary Custody in a Law Enforcement Facility*, Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations (15 Cal. Code Regs. §§ 1140–1151)

**III. CONDITIONS OF DETENTION:**

- A. Are minors provided with orientation?  Yes  No
- B. Are they informed of the purpose of detention?  Yes  No
- C. Are they told the length of time detention is expected to last?  Yes  No
- D. Are they informed of the six-hour maximum time limit?  Yes  No

**IV. CONDITIONS OF SECURE DETENTION (e.g. cell/locked room):**

- A. What is the proximity of minors to adult inmates? [Separated entirely](#)
- B. What is the ability and frequency of staff to supervise minor? [Constant direct visual monitoring](#)
- C. Is there constant auditory access to staff?  Yes  No
- D. Are minors provided with a snack if requested?  Yes  No
- E. Do minors have access to toilets and washing facilities?  Yes  No
- F. Do minors have access to a drinking fountain or water?  Yes  No
- G. Are there provisions to provide clothing or blankets to assure comfort?  Yes  No

**V. CONDITIONS OF SECURE DETENTION OUTSIDE A LOCKED ENCLOSURE:**

*(this includes minors who are handcuffed to a fixed object such as a rail, bench, chair or table):*

- A. Are minors assured no “contact” with adult inmates?  Yes  No
- B. Is there constant supervision?  Yes  No
- C. Is there a 30-minute limit and Watch Commander approval every 30 minutes thereafter? [Constant monitoring](#)  Yes  No
- D. Are minors placed in cell when one becomes available?  Yes  No
- E. Do minors have access to toilet and washing facilities?  Yes  No
- F. Is there access to a drinking fountain?  Yes  No

**VI. CONDITIONS OF NON-SECURE DETENTION:**

- A. Is there direct and constant supervision by staff during the entire custody period?  Yes  No
- B. Are males and females put in same room?  Yes  No

**VII. INTOXICATED MINORS:**

- A. Does the facility have written procedures for the handling of minors under the influence of any intoxicating substances?  Yes  No
- B. Did the facility detain any minors, either secure or non-secure, determined to be under the influence of an intoxicating substance?  Yes  No

[It is possible this occurred and was not documented. The written procedures were not in the orientation binder and had to be printed out separately. It seems EMTs would be used if intoxication became obvious at the station but generally minors are either handed over to](#)

their parents (depending on the severity of intoxication and the charges) or taken to a hospital rather than brought back to the station. However, it was not clear that adequate training was provided to all officers.

If yes:

1. Was medical clearance obtained?  Yes  No
2. Were these detentions documented?  Yes  No
3. If the detention was secure, were there documented safety checks no less than once every 15 minutes?  Yes  No
4. If the detention was non-secure, was the minor in the constant presence of staff?  Yes  No
5. Who provides medical clearance for these minors?

**VIII. DOCUMENTATION:**

- A. Are all mandated visual checks documented?  Yes  No
- B. Are secure/non-secure detention logs used?  Yes  No
- C. Do the detention logs list the offense and reason which formed the decision to place the minor in secure detention, as well as the length of time the minor was securely detained?  Yes  No
- D. Does the facility have signage posted explaining the procedures for the handling of secure / non-secure detention of minors?  Yes  No

**IX. ARE THERE INSTANCES IN WHICH A MINOR(S) WAS HELD FOR MORE THAN SIX HOURS? IF YES, LIST THE DATES, STARTING AND ENDING TIME AND CIRCUMSTANCES FOR EACH INSTANCE.**

One female minor was held over six hours on August 24, 2019 (1600 - 2245 hours). This 17-year-old had an initial 245 (a) (i) PC charge, but it was discovered that she was a victim of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) who was defending herself. The reason she was held longer was because outside investigators with specific Human Trafficking expertise were called in to interview her and determine the safest way to proceed. She was released to her mother. Per Rancho's monthly BSCC report logs, their report does need to be amended: they reported four non-secure holds of minors for less than six hours, when it should have been reported that three non-secure holds of minors occurred for less than six hours, and one youth was held (non-secure) for more than six hours.

Two 17-year-old male minors were held over six hours on April 15, 2020 (0330 - 0949 hours; 0500 - 1115 hours) on a 245 PC with multiple people injured, one of whom it seems may have been a fatality. An adult was also involved (no details in the report on the minors). It seems multiple investigators were brought in to talk with the minors separately, and one was released directly to his mother while the other went to Juvenile Hall. The severity of the criminal activity, the number of people injured and the need to have multiple investigators brought to the station for separate questioning contributed to the length of their hold. The report to BSCC does need to be amended as Rancho only reported one youth held over six hours in April (one secure <6 hours and one secure >6 hours were reported), when in fact two minors were held over the six-hour limit and none were held less than 6 hours.

**X. Minors Interviewed (Comments):**

None on premise.