

Juvenile Justice Commission of San Diego County

Jails and Lockups 2023 Inspection Report

2022 Yearly Statistics (from Log Books)

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

82 # **Secure** detentions **UNDER** 6 hours

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

2 # **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: Escondido Police Dept. Date of Inspection: 10/17/2023
Address: 1163 Center City Parkway Date of Last Inspection: 9/29/2022
Escondido, CA 92026 Phone Number: 760-839-4722

Facility Manager: Chief Ed Varso Contact Person: Sgt. Mike Graesser
Phone No.: 760-839-4721 Phone No.: 760-715-1606
Staff Assisting: _____ E-mail: mgraesser@escondido.org
Phone No.: _____ Alt. Contact: _____

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge: Hon. Ana España
Commission Chair: Maya De La Torre
Phone No.: 858-634-1555
Inspecting Commissioners: Yvette D. Klepin

I. **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

The inspection included review of documentation, facility tour and discussion with Sergeant Graesser. The facility is well maintained and the design ensures sight and sound separation between minors and adults from the time of entry at the sally port to the area designated for detained minors. If there is a need for further separation between minors there is an area for female adults that has cells adjacent to an entry walkway. There are two magnetic plaques used for this area. One states JUVENILE and the other ADULT. When a minor is placed in this area the juvenile plaque is placed on the door for all staff to see to ensure sight and sound separation. An officer will sit in the officer area and has full sight and sound access. The officers discuss the minor's rights with them and there is signage posted that addresses the minor's rights.

In review of all logs, documentation supports practice mirrors policy and what is required by law and statute. There was clear documentation that included secure or non-secure detention, charges, time detained, who the minor was released to and watch commander checks. In review of documentation there were 80 non-secured entries and two (2) secured entries. In further review it was noticed one individual was on both logs. In discussion the one named in the secured logs came in to the facility as non-secured. Their behavior escalated to a point that they were then secured for the safety of themselves and the officers. To ensure accuracy we discussed crossing out the information on the non-secured log (leaving it so it is still legible) with a note on the log

they were moved to secured and why. By doing this there is not a double reporting of a single detention. In review of the December documentation sent to the Board of State and Community Corrections Escondido Police reported 10 non-secured detentions on the cover sheet. The logs showed 9. There appears to have been only 9. This was an oversight. Review of the paperwork for accuracy is important.

Although Escondido Police have a higher number of juvenile detentions than some other areas in the county it is clear crimes committed by minors is increasing in regards to severity and warrant intervention. It was noted on the logs a couple of minors were detained for curfew, runaway, a warrant and a Juvenile Detention Order. The minors were not detained solely for the aforementioned charges but had allegedly committed a criminal act as well.

As to medical clearances, they are obtained if needed. If a minor is transported to a probation detention facility, then the minor is taken to Palomar hospital for clearance prior to transport if needed. If a clearance is done the information is documented in the arresting officer's report.

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

Escondido Police Department is well organized and the facility design ensures sight and sound separation. There is only one recommendation and that is to ensure the documentation sent to the Board of State and Community Corrections is accurate and consistent between the logs and cover sheet.

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? [There is sight and sound separation from entry into the sally port to the detained area.](#)
- B. What is the ability and frequency of staff to supervise minor? [There is constant direct observation of minors at all times.](#)
- 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? Yes No
- D. Are minors placed in cell when one becomes available? [Cells are rarely used if at all.](#)
 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
- 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? [Palomar Hospital](#)

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.

[No minor was held for more than six hours.](#)

X. Minors Interviewed (Comments):

[No minors were at the facility at the time of the inspection.](#)