
Purpose

This policy recognizes that Bemidji Police Officers often encounter juveniles while on duty. Further it provides officers options to most appropriate handle juveniles when the need for intervention exists.

Policy

It shall be the policy of the Bemidji Police Department to handle juveniles with respect and treat them as sensitive members of the public. Officers will use their discretion to utilize the least invasive solution while assuring the safety and security of the juvenile.

A. Release at the Point of Initial Contact

A release at the point of initial contact by an officer is usually the result of the discovery of a potential situation where no official action is necessary. Instances of this nature would indicate that a crime has not been committed. Officers should be sensitive to the juvenile, in order to maintain a positive relationship with the youth.

B. Release to a parent or guardian, accompanied by an official Report

Contact with a juvenile in this instance is likely the result of a citizen complaint, a reported incident, or a discovered incident by police. A report should include:

- a. Full name, DOB, current address and phone number of the juvenile
- b. Both parents names, if applicable and current contact information
- c. Specific details about the incident and pertinent past conduct
- d. School information, with notice to SRO and applicable school district

C. Refer to other agency for treatment, counseling or rehabilitation

When an officer encounters a child in need of protection as a result of his surrounding environment, Beltrami County Child Protection Services should be immediately notified. Arrangements should be made to remove the child from the dangerous situation and provide placement as necessary. A complete police report and copies of appropriate protective holds must be included and completed.

D. Referral to juvenile intake with detention

If an officer deems it necessary to maintain custody of a juvenile by detention at an appropriate facility, or any other place except the juvenile's legal residence, the following guidelines should be considered:

- a. No child shall be placed or held in detention unless there is probable cause to believe, that if released, he would be dangerous to himself, be dangerous to others, not return for a hearing or not remain in the care and control of his lawful custodian.
- b. Officer should contact the detention facility directly prior to arrival in order to make any necessary arrangements and to provide accurate information.

- c. All documentation and required facility reports will be completed prior to leaving. This should include any attempts to contact the juveniles' parents or guardian.
- d. A complete police report should be filed and referred to the Beltrami County Attorney's Office for review as soon as practicable.
- e. School notification and SRO consultation should be made as soon as practicable

Reference or Revision Date(s):

A. REVISION DATE(S):