

Effective Date: February 19, 2025

Amended: February 2, 2026

Review Date: February 20, 2025

Review Date: February 2, 2026



Chief Judge Order 12-04

11TH Judicial District

CYDC POLICY FOR

EMERGENCY RELEASE OF A JUVENILE FROM SECURE DETENTION

1. Purpose

To determine the process for the emergency release of youth detained by the Eleventh Judicial District (Chaffee, Custer, Fremont and Park Counties) in the secure detention setting in accordance with Colorado Revised Statute (C.R.S.) Section 1, Article w of title 19. Sections 19-2.5-1405, 19-2.5-1515 and 19-2.5- 1512, which address the limitation on the number of juvenile beds in the State of Colorado at a total of 215.

2. Goals

a. To monitor, on a weekly basis, detention admission and lengths of stay for pre-adjudicated and sentenced youth detained by the Eleventh Judicial District in a Division of Youth Services secure facility.

b. To determine in advance, which detention youth would be considered for emergency release in the event the Eleventh Judicial District reaches and has the potential to exceed the State-imposed district detention cap of 19. This State-imposed district cap is for PYC, and the 11th JD, is allocated 2 of these beds, before using borrowed beds, emergency beds and flex beds.

c. To ensure a plan exists and that various options have been explored to avoid emergency release for detained youth.

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d. To submit recommendations to the Court regarding the emergency release of pre-adjudicated or sentenced youth should no other option be available.

e. To obtain signed or verbal orders from a judge or magistrate so that a youth can be released as needed.

3. Procedures

1. The screening and case management agency in contract with the 11th Judicial District (Mission Possible) will review the statistics at the detention center. This will be done daily. When the district's bed use is determined to be close to capacity, that agency will use the assessment information they have and consult with the CYDC Coordinator for possible release candidates. Consideration will be given to:
 - a. The number of current beds currently in use
 - b. The expected soon-to-be-released youth
 - c. The overall current use of the detention center
 - d. The risk score of the youth in detention assessment)
 - e. The reason for detention and nature of charges for each youth
2. The decisions for release will be considered by a committee including but not limited to:
 - a. Mission Possible Staff
 - b. The CYDC Coordinator for the Eleventh Judicial District
 - c. The District Attorney or designated Juvenile Attorney for each county in the district
 - d. The assigned probation officer, if available
3. The committee will meet if the detention situation indicates a possible need for an emergency release.
 - a. The committee can most often meet informally via phone call, e-mail etc.
 - b. Mission Possible staff (or in emergency, The CYDC Coordinator for the Eleventh Judicial District) will provide information to the courts and the committee regarding the status of each youth in detention who is being considered for emergency release.
 - c. Though the above-mentioned committee member's opinions will be taken into consideration, the ultimate decision will be made by the Chief Judge or

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their designee by contacting them at the phone number provided to the CYDC Coordinator.

4. Options for release will include:
 - a. Release to parents on EHM Tracking
 - b. Release to Department of Human Services Custody if the parents are not available or if the youth is in legal custody of the Department.
5. Mission Possible staff (or in emergency, the CYDC Coordinator for the Eleventh Judicial District) will provide a written request for emergency release to the chief judge or their designee by calling them at the phone number provided to the CYDC coordinator and submitting the request for their signature. The signed request will serve as a release order.
6. Mission Possible staff (or in emergency, the CYDC Coordinator for the Eleventh Judicial District) will ensure that the signed request is faxed or emailed to the appropriate detention center.
7. The CYDC Coordinator for the 11th Judicial District shall coordinate with the Division of Youth Services facility to ensure victim notification is complete, if applicable, and pursuant to C.R.S. §24-4.1-303(14)(c).
8. Mission Possible staff will continue to monitor the detention situation at the detention center. No release will be activated until absolutely no other option is available. Options:
 - a. Borrow a bed from another Judicial District that also uses the Pueblo Youth Services Center (PYC).
 - b. Ask another district to emergency release a low-risk youth if the only youth in detention that are from the Eleventh Judicial District happens to be high risk.
9. If a release is considered pending (possible within a 24-hour period), the CYDC Coordinator who receives information from the detention center of the capacity issues, and necessitating the emergency release, will notify the youth's family, custodian, or location of release of the possibility of emergency release.
10. When a release has to be put into effect (there are no beds available in the entire facility). The detention center will notify the CYDC Coordinator, who will call the youth's family, custodian, or location of release and notify them that the youth must be picked up within six hours (Southern Region Bed Borrowing Policy).
11. It is the responsibility of the family, custodian or individual in charge of the location of release to transport the youth.
12. The released youth will be placed on Electronic Home Monitoring, if such option is

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ordered by the Court, immediately upon returning to their home county.

13. The released youth (if he/she is released on a sentence) will be readmitted to the detention center to complete their sentence as soon as the bed capacity indicates the sentence is most likely to be able to be completed.

4. Hierarchy of emergency release decisions

Youth who **will not** be considered for release:

- a. Youth who have been placed in detention and are waiting a detention hearing.
- b. Youth who have a high-risk assessment score and no safe arrangement can be made for their release.

Youth who **will be** considered for release will be considered in the following order:

- a. Youth serving a sentence for a crime not listed in C.R.S. §24-4.1-302(1) and who are considered low risk.
- b. Youth serving a sentence for a crime listed in C.R.S. §24-4.1-302(1) and who are low risk and for which a victim has not opted in for notification.
- c. Youth serving a sentence for a crime listed in C.R.S. §24-4.1-302(1) and are low risk and for which a victim has opted in for notification in the order in which notification can be most easily made.
- d. Youth who are charged for a crime not listed in C.R.S. §24-4.1-302(1) and who are low risk.
- e. Youth who are charged for a crime listed in C.R.S. §24-4.1-302(1), who are low risk and for which victim notification can be most easily made.

BY THE COURT:



Amanda Hunter, Chief Judge

February 2, 2026, in Fairplay, CO