



OREGON YOUTH AUTHORITY
Policy Statement
Part I – Administrative Services



Subject:

Notification to Parents/Guardians

Section – Policy Number:

E: Information Management: 5.0

Supersedes:

II-E-1.0 (03/08)
II-E-1.0 (12/03)
II-E-1.0 (06/03)

Effective Date:

09/30/2011

Date of Last

Review/Revision:

None

Related Standards and References:

- [OAR Chapter 416](#), Division 50 (Funeral and Burial Expenses)
- National Commission on Correctional Health Care, *Standards for Health Services in Juvenile Detention and Confinement Facilities*; Y-A-12 (Notification in Emergencies)
- [OYA policy](#): I-E-1.0 (Director's Incident Report and Notification)
 I-A-9.0 (Parent/Guardian and Family Involvement in Offender Reformation)
 II-D-1.4 (Medication Management in OYA Facilities)
 II-D-2.2 (Suicide Prevention in Close Custody)
 III-D-3.4 (Suicide Prevention in Community Placements)
 III-A-1.0 (Youth Incident Reports)
 III-D-3.0 (Medication Management in Substitute Care)
- [Attachment A](#): OYA Parent/Guardian Notification Tree

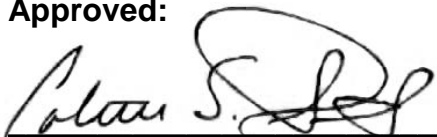
Related Procedures:

- None

Policy Owner:

Deputy Director

Approved:


 Colette S. Peters, Director

I. PURPOSE:

This policy provides guidelines for OYA staff when notifying parents/guardians of offender incidents.

II. POLICY DEFINITIONS:

None

III. POLICY:

OYA recognizes the value in maintaining contact with parents/guardians of offenders in its custody. When significant incidents involving offenders occur, staff will provide timely notice to the offender's parents/guardians.

IV. GENERAL STANDARDS:

A. Incidents Requiring Parent/Guardian Notification

1. Transfer between OYA facilities

- a) The sending facility staff will notify the receiving facility staff of the transfer.
- b) The receiving facility staff will notify the parent/guardian of the offender's transfer once the offender has arrived at the final destination.

2. Transfer between community placements

The offender's juvenile parole/probation officer (JPPO) will notify the parent/guardian of the transfer once the offender has arrived at the final designation.

3. Prescription of a psychotropic medication;

Notification is to parents/guardians of minor offenders (less than 18 years old). Offenders ages 14 and older must provide consent to this notification.

- a) For facility offenders, this information will be relayed during the offender's MDT as described in OYA policy II-D-1.4 (Medication Management in OYA Facilities).
- b) For offenders in substitute care placement, the notification will occur as described in OYA policy III-D-3.0 (Medication Management in Substitute Care).

4. Any incident involving an offender that requires emergency community response;

5. Urgent or emergent medical care;

6. Unauthorized absence or escape;

7. Suicide attempt;

8. Any form of abuse;

9. Offender life-threatening injury;

10. Offender death;

11. Other significant changes to an offender's status.

B. General Notification Process (for events other than offender transfers and prescription of psychotropic medication)

1. OYA Staff Notification Process

Staff will start the OYA Parent/Guardian Notification Tree (Attachment A) within the first hour after the staff member becomes aware of the incident. Notification must be verbal (in-person or by telephone).

2. A treatment manager, JPPO, or designee will contact the parent/guardian no later than 24 hours of the incident contingent on:

- a) Severity of the injury to the offender (if injury exists);
- b) Imminent risk to the safety and security of the offender or facility; and
- c) Need for parental/guardian information or consent.

3. If the treatment manager or JPPO is not available, staff must initially report the incident to the facility or Community Services officer-of- the-day (OD).

The OD or designee will contact the parent/guardian and relay the incident information.

C. Offender Death or Life-threatening Injury

1. Parent/Guardian Notification

- a) Parent/guardian notification of an offender death or life-threatening injury must be as soon as possible to ensure the family is notified by an OYA representative rather than the media or a third party.
- b) For life-threatening injuries, the contact may be by telephone.
- c) If an offender has died, the contact must be face-to-face by a supervisor/manager and accompanying staff.

Telephone contact is only allowed when face-to-face contact is not possible or cannot be done in a timely manner.

- d) Great care, tact, and sympathy must be extended to the family. For death notifications, details of the death must only be relayed to the family by the investigating authority.

2. Monitoring and Support After Offender Death

- a) As the community liaison, the JPPO may be responsible for monitoring events and interacting with the family after the immediate crisis is over and the family is still grieving.
- b) The circumstance of each death is unique, and care must be given to ensure the wishes of the family are considered. The JPPO should consult the family to determine how best to assist them in this difficult time.
- c) OYA may pay the cost of funeral, burial or cremation expenses for an offender who dies while in OYA legal custody.

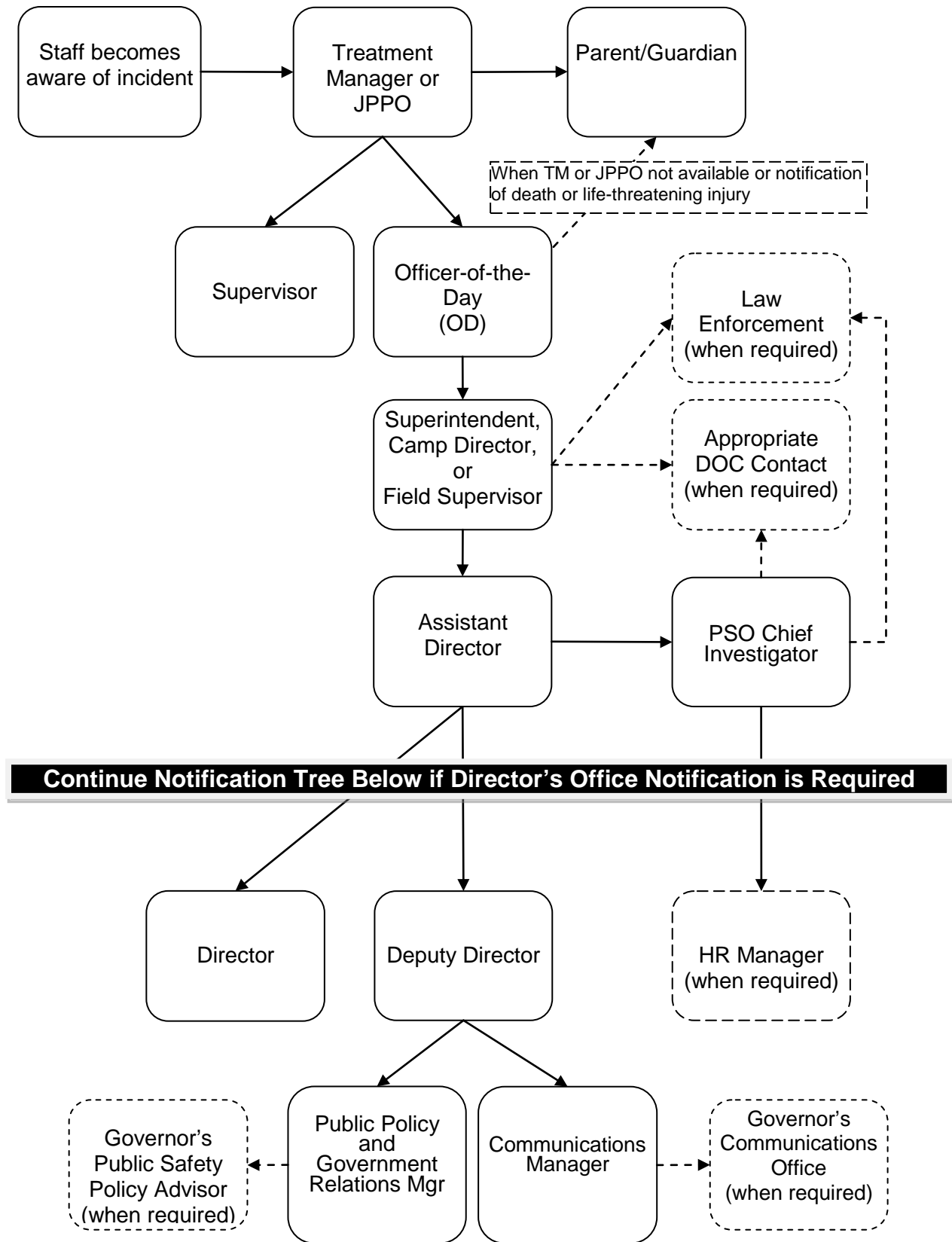
Refer to OAR 416-050 (Funeral and Burial Expenses) for guidance.

D. Documentation

Staff will document all parent/guardian contacts and notifications in the offender's JJIS notebook.

V. LOCAL OPERATING PROTOCOL REQUIRED: NO

Attachment A: OYA Parent/Guardian Notification Tree



Key: —> Arrow points to the person (in the box) who must be notified.