

OREGON YOUTH AUTHORITY

Policy Summary



Visits with Youth

The following is only a summary of OYA policy [II-E-2.5 Visits with Youth](#). Please refer to the policy for full details and as the official policy record. For other policies, visit <https://www.oregon.gov/oya/aboutoya/pages/policies.aspx>.

Visiting with family and supportive community members is important for youth in Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) custody. Visits help youth stay connected to positive influences and support their success when they return to the community. OYA encourages visits that benefit youth while ensuring safety, security, and facility rules are followed.

Scheduling a Visit

- Each OYA facility has a visiting schedule posted at the entrance. Visits may be on specific days/times or by appointment.
- Visitors must follow OYA rules, including appropriate dress and security procedures.
- All visitors must be approved before visiting including completing a visitor request form. Once on the approved visitor's list, visitors must contact the case coordinator or camp counselor in advance to schedule the visit.

Visitor Requirements

- **Ages 13 and older:** Must show valid photo ID.
- **Ages 12 and under:** Can visit but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Who Can Visit? Visitation with youth is limited to those who are integral to the youth's case plan. Typically, these are:

- Family members, including parents, siblings, grandparents, legal guardians, and stepfamily.
- Youth's attorney.
- Mentors, treatment providers, or tribal representatives.
- Other visitors may be approved on a case-by-case basis.

How Visit Requests Are Reviewed

- The Multidisciplinary Team (MDT), which includes the youth's case manager and treatment team, reviews all visitor requests.
- The MDT and Juvenile Parole and Probation Officer (JPPO) decide if the visit supports the youth's case plan and follows facility rules. If a request is denied, the youth and visitor will be notified in writing. Visitors can appeal a denial by

writing to the facility superintendent within 30 days. Youth can also appeal through the youth grievance process.

How Visit Requests Are Reviewed

The Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) reviews visit requests based on what is best for the youth while ensuring facility safety. They consider:

- The relationship between the youth and visitor.
- Whether the visit supports the youth's case plan and goals.
- Facility security.
- The youth's wishes.
- Any court orders that may restrict visits.
- Department of Corrections (DOC) recommendations for youth in DOC legal custody but housed in an OYA facility.

Reasons a Visit May Be Denied

Reasons a visitor may be denied include:

- Has a history of harming or alleged harmful behavior toward the youth.
- Has violated OYA rules in the past.
- Has an active arrest warrant or is on probation/parole.
- Is restricted by court order or by the youth's legal guardian.
- The youth doesn't want the person to visit them.

For a full list of reasons, please consult the policy.

Facility Rules for Visits

- Visitors may only visit the youth they are approved for.
- Staff will supervise visits in person—cameras cannot replace supervision.
- Visitors may be searched upon entry, and certain items may not be allowed.
- Visits may have time limits or a limited number of visitors based on space and staffing.
- Staff can end a visit or remove a visitor if they do not follow the rules.

Need More Information?

Each facility may have additional rules, including:

- Who to contact to schedule visits.
- Whether food or vending machines are available.
- Number of people who can visit because of facility layout or staffing limitations.
- Whether or not there are separate restrooms for visitors and youth.

If you have questions about visiting a youth, contact the facility for details.

OYA is committed to helping youth maintain meaningful connections while ensuring safety and security for everyone involved.