

COLLOCATION OF JUVENILE AND ADULT FACILITIES

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE:

Political and fiscal pressures have caused many jurisdictions to collocate adult and juvenile facilities. This practice may result in the reduction of services for youth and will increase the potential of victimization and negative influence by adult offenders. Although the collocation of services is not the optimum design for juvenile detention facilities, it can be a reasonable accommodation if certain factors are given careful consideration.

NATURE OF THE ISSUE:

- The time-tested professional practice of separating juvenile and adult offenders is supported by research findings.
- Many political jurisdictions are combining a wide range of correctional services for both juvenile and adult offenders. Such combinations include housing juveniles and adults in the same facility.
- There are clearly savings to be realized by economy of scale related to combining support services. Many of these actions, taken as cost-saving measures, violate the principles of sight and sound separation of juvenile detainees and adult prisoners.

POSITION STATEMENT:

The National Juvenile Detention Association (NJDA) only endorses the construction and operation of collocated juvenile and adult detention facilities that ensure the total separation of juvenile and adult offenders and which meet the following criteria:

1. The facility is or will be constructed in a way that eliminates even accidental or incidental sight, sound or physical contact between juvenile detainees and adult prisoners.
 2. All parties having fiscal, political and/or administrative control over collocated facilities agree in writing that separation is unequivocal. Such agreement shall include: separate direct care and administrative staff; population specific staff training; and separate programs.
 3. The agreement identifying conditions of separation shall be monitored by an independent entity which has the authority to ensure compliance.
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