

## YOUNG OFFENDER INFORMATION SHARING

### Background

The Division recognizes that from time to time students may be enrolled in its schools who are classified as Young Offenders under the Youth Criminal Justice Act. Information provided to designated officers of the Board under the provisions of amendments to the Act in order to address school safety and security issues, and provide a collaborative and coordinated case management approach to the rehabilitation of the young person will be handled by designated officers of the Board in accordance with the provisions of the Youth Criminal Justice Act and its amendments, and any other applicable statutes.

### Procedures

1. Access to information created or collected by justice personnel about a young offender for the purposes of *The Youth Criminal Justice Act* is restricted to designated personnel, which includes the principal of the school
  - 1.1 The principal of the school the young offender attends shall be the custodian of all information provided by the probation officer/community youth worker.
  - 1.2 In the event that the person designated as principal of the school attended by the young offender is transferred or leaves the school or the Division, the individual designated as acting principal shall be the custodian of all information provided by the youth worker until a new principal is designated.
  - 1.3 The principal shall ensure that no persons other than those with a “need to know” have access to the disclosed information. It is not appropriate to provide all staff with some form of a general bulletin in respect of a young offender where safety issues are a concern. However, those staff who would potentially be involved in a supervisory interaction can be considered for need to know access. Specifics related to the student’s past as a young offender cannot be shared.
  - 1.4 School personnel, who deal directly with the student may be given access to information so that appropriate responses can be made in order to preserve the safety of other students or the staff.
  - 1.5 Where a student, a parent or guardian, or a professional (e.g. social worker) requests information for the purposes of further counseling or coordinating services in the best interests of the young offender, the request shall be referred to the youth worker.
  - 1.6 The principal in determining the persons to whom to release information shall understand that:
    - 1.6.1 Inappropriate disclosure could result in a fine or imprisonment; and,

- 1.6.2 The right of the young offender to confidentiality must be maintained.
2. Information provided under amendments to the Youth Criminal Justice Act is to be filed and stored under secure conditions.
  - 2.1 Information about a young offender shall be kept separate from the student's school record portfolio and from any other record accessible to other staff.
  - 2.2 A list of the persons to whom the information is to be disclosed shall be appended to the young offender's file and only those whose names appear on the list shall have access to the file.
  - 2.3 Young offender records shall be kept in a locked cabinet and shall be under the control of the principal.
  - 2.4 Young offender records shall be destroyed when they are no longer required for the purpose for which the information was disclosed.
  - 2.5 When a young offender ceases to be a student at the school to which information was provided the young offender records shall be destroyed.
  - 2.6 The Principal of a sending school shall not forward any young offender files or information to the receiving school when a young offender transfers to another school. This information would be transferred by the corrections youth worker.
3. Ongoing communication between youth justice personnel and school and Division staff is encouraged.
  - 3.1 Principals shall only inform the probation officer/community youth worker and not the receiving school whenever a young offender about whom they have received information transfers to another school.
  - 3.2 It is the responsibility of the probation officer/community youth worker to advise the receiving school about the student's young offender status.
  - 3.3 The principal is to meet regularly with the probation officer/community youth worker in order to:
    - 3.3.1 Be advised of any changes regarding probation, conditional supervision or temporary absence orders, including the expiration of such orders.
    - 3.3.2 Advise the youth worker of attendance or other problems which may result in the young person being found in violation of a court order regarding bail, probation, conditional supervision or temporary absence.
  - 3.4 The principal, upon written request from a probation officer/community youth worker to provide information for a report ordered by a youth court judge, shall arrange for the release of information from the student record portfolio after first receiving the following information from the probation officer/community youth worker:

- 3.4.1 Name.
  - 3.4.2 Age.
  - 3.4.3 The nature of the report to be provided and the section of *The Youth Criminal Justice Act* under which such a report is authorized;
  - 3.4.4 Timelines with respect to providing information;
  - 3.4.5 Specific description of the type of information required such as:
    - 3.4.5.1 Attendance of the student.
    - 3.4.5.2 The program or courses in which the student is enrolled.
    - 3.4.5.3 The performance of the student.
    - 3.4.5.4 The nature of incidents giving rise to discipline and the type of discipline imposed.
    - 3.4.5.5 The number of years for which the information is required (for the current school year or the student's entire career in the school).
  - 3.4.6 Before any information is released, the principal shall obtain the consent of the parent (or of the student or the parent if the student is 16 yrs. of age or older). If permission is not provided, the principal will release the information upon receipt of a court order from the Youth Court judge.
- 3.5 The principal is authorized to request the Attorney General, an agent of the Attorney General, a peace officer, or a provincial young offender's director, to apply on behalf of the Division to a youth court relative to:
- 3.5.1 Disclosing information to the principal when the principal believes that a student poses a risk to the safety of school personnel; or
  - 3.5.2 Disclosing court-ordered psychological assessments; or
  - 3.5.3 Disclosing information that will assist school personnel in providing an educational program for the student and creating an appropriate environment for that program.
- 3.6 In circumstances where there is a difference of opinion between the youth worker and school staff regarding the nature or extent of information to be provided by one party or the other the matter shall be referred to the Director for resolution with an appropriate officer of the Young Offenders Branch.

Reference: 85, 87, 109, 175, 231 School Act  
Youth Justice Administration Act  
Youth Criminal Justice Act

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