



HB133: Temporary Secure Juvenile Holding Area

HB133 (Spohnholz) creates a new definition of “temporary secure juvenile holding area” in Alaska statute. This term relates to Alaska’s compliance with the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) and federal rules for holding juvenile offenders securely in adult jails or lockups.

The JJDP established the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Formula Grants Program that directly funds Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Juvenile Justice initiatives to improve the juvenile justice system. Alaska Statute 47.12 includes several references to the JJDP requirements; HB133 includes provisions to clarify these laws. The JJDP outlines Four Core Mandates that states must comply with:

- 1. Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO):** Status offenders may not be in secure custody in any adult detention facilities. Status offenders may not be held in juvenile secure confinement for any length of time.
- 2. Jail Removal:** Delinquent juvenile offenders may not be in secure custody in any adult detention facilities for more than 6 hours before and 6 hours after an initial court appearance. Alaska has a “rural exception” that allows up to 48 hours before the initial court appearance.
- 3. Sight and Sound Separation:** All juveniles in secure custody in any adult detention facilities must be sight and sound separated from adult inmates.
- 4. Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC):** States must access and address the disproportionate contact of youth of color as key points in the juvenile justice system.

When a juvenile offender is arrested in a community without a DJJ facility, the local law enforcement or State Troopers coordinate with DJJ on how to hold a youth pending transportation to the nearest DJJ facility. Juvenile offenders may be held in adult jails or other locations under the Core Mandate provisions.

HB133 adds the term “temporary secure juvenile holding area” to clarify these requirements in delinquency statute. The division tracks compliance, provides training, and conducts onsite compliance visits at “temporary secure juvenile holding areas” across the state. DJJ works with law enforcements to advise on holds in communities without identified “temporary secure juvenile holding areas.”

Examples of participating “Temporary Secure Juvenile Holding Areas”	
Community Jails	Barrow, Cordova, Craig, Dillingham, Haines, King Salmon, Petersburg, Seward, Unalaska, Valdez
Lock-Ups	Ambler, Buckland, Chevak, Deadhorse, False Pass, Galena, Glennallen, Hooper Bay, Kake, Kaktovik, Metlakatla, Noatak, Pelican, Quinhagak, Saint Paul, Seldovia, Togiak, Wainwright
Court Holding Cells	Fairbanks, Kotzebue, Palmer