



YOUTH SERVICES CENTER

THE STARTING POINT



The Youth Services Center (YSC) is the District of Columbia's detention center for male and female youth, responsible for the care and custody of young people placed in secure detention by court order from the DC Superior Court Family Court Division.

The YSC population consists of youth who are:

- Part of the Adult Transition Unit, housing Title 16 youth (adjudicated as adult offenders);
- Awaiting court proceedings (pre-adjudicated) or hearings (overnight);
- Adjudicated and pending court action; and
- Committed to DYRS.

The Run Through

The Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) opened YSC in 2004. An 88-bed secure facility, YSC provides 24-hour care, custody, and supervision in a safe and secure environment for youth ordered detained by the DC Superior Court Family Court Division.

Staff at YSC consists of Youth Development Representatives (YDRs) who provide direct and continuous observation, supervision, and on-the-spot counseling to young people in each housing unit.

Two YDRs are assigned to each housing unit at all times, with at least one assigned manager per floor to assist with oversight and assistance. Also located at YSC are a myriad of medical and behavioral health professionals, treatment specialists, Juvenile Justice Institutional Counselors, and administrative staff.

Keeping Pace

The Youth Services Center focuses primarily on meeting the basic needs of the residents, including diagnostic assessments, medical and behavioral health services, and educational services.

YSC also provides other services consistent with Positive Youth Justice, including physical fitness, mentoring opportunities, and creative arts programs. DYRS encourages family involvement for all youth held at the facility and offers regular family visitation opportunities.

For youth who are likely to be committed, DYRS facilitates Team Decision-Making meetings and makes placement recommendations.

For more information, please contact Shawn Dowell, Superintendent at (202) 576-8479 or shawn.dowell@dc.gov

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