

Chapter: Supervision
Subject: Searches
Section: 8.6
Page: 1 of 2
ODJFS Rule: 5101: 2-9-19(A)
COA Standard: PA-GLS 12.02(a), 12.03
Revised: 4/24/2020; 8/5/2022

Due to the open nature of NRTC, it is necessary at times for youth and/or the facility to be searched, in order to detect and confiscate any items which pose a clear health or safety risk, or which interfere with the rights or privileges of others, or which are illegal to possess as a matter of state law or local ordinance. Searches may also be conducted to detect items that may be inappropriate or to locate missing property within the environment. Staff members may conduct unannounced and irregularly timed searches of the youths' rooms. NRTC shall make reasonable efforts to have the youth present during a search of the youth's personal belongings. All searches of residents or their property are conducted in a trauma-informed manner that respects the clients rights, dignity and self-determination and follows guidelines outlined in the OAC.

For the purposes of this policy, contraband is defined as any item that is not approved to be in the environment. This includes items that have not been properly checked in by the case manager, probation officer, or youth specialist (t-shirt, radio, etc.), as well as illegal items that are not allowed on campus (drugs, weapons, etc.). Contraband may also include items within the environment that have been stolen (snacks, bus tokens, etc.).

1. All searches completed by NRTC employees are to be documented on the shift report, and timely notification of a parent and/or guardian is to be completed by staff.
2. Staff members conducting searches will be trained in trauma informed practices. Searches shall be thorough, but efforts shall be made not to damage youths' personal property.
3. Youth returning to NRTC from home visits, school, Community Resources, etc. will be security wanded and/or asked to empty their pockets and remove their shoes, in addition to any coat or backpack/bag they may have. Staff members will then inspect the youths' personal property to ensure they are not bringing contraband into the facility.
 - Any contraband shall be confiscated and secured in the locked staff office. The staff member shall inform the supervisor on duty. Depending on the nature of the contraband, the youth shall receive appropriate consequences.
4. If after the initial search of the youth's property there is reason to believe the youth has dangerous and/or illegal contraband on his or her person, the following procedure will be implemented, with supervisory approval:
 - The youth will be asked to go into the shower stall of their unit bathroom, where they will remove their clothing behind the closed partition. Two staff members will be present outside of the shower room to monitor the process. The youth will be asked to hand their clothing to a staff member over the partition wall, so the staff member can inspect the clothing for contraband. Any contraband shall be confiscated and secured in the control room.

Chapter: Supervision
Subject: Searches
Page: 2 of 2

- After searching the youth's clothing, the staff member will return the clothing to the youth over the partition wall, so they may get dressed. The youth will then be asked to leave the shower stall so the staff member can inspect the shower area to ensure contraband was not left in the stall.
- If a youth suspected of having dangerous and/or illegal contraband refuses to comply with the search process, the staff member may contact law enforcement for assistance. The youth may be kept separate from other youth until law enforcement arrives.

Youth and their parents/guardians are informed of this policy at the time of admission to NRTC.