

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>County of Sacramento</b>  <b>Department of Health Services</b>  <b>Division of Behavioral Health Services</b>  <b>Policy and Procedure</b></p>	Policy Issuer (Unit/Program)	BHS-CMH-YDF
	Policy Number	06-03
	Effective Date	10/2009
	Revision Date	08/2019
Title: Suicide Risk Classification		Functional Area: Clinical Care
Approved By:		
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**Background/Context:**

Title 15, Section 1329 requires the Sacramento County Youth Detention Facility (YDF) administrator, in collaboration with the healthcare and behavioral/mental health administrators to plan and implement written policies and procedures which delineate a Suicide Prevention Plan. The Juvenile Justice Institutions Mental Health Team (JJIMHT) provides suicide prevention services to the youth detained in the YDF. Title 15, Section 1352 requires the facility administrator develop and implement a system of classification for youth for the purpose of determining housing and placement in the facility. The procedures shall provide for the safety of the youth, other youth, facility staff and the public.

**Definitions:**

Classification/Status: Probation maintains a classification system within the facility. Classification is a process by which each youth detained in the YDF is assigned a specific security and risk assessment based on objective criteria.

S-3 Classification/Status: The S-3 classification/status identifies those youth who have an identified history of suicidal ideation, gestures or attempts.

Current S-3 List: JJIMHT maintains a list of youth classified S-3 and/or S-5 for the purpose of ensuring the identified youth are monitored within program policy guidelines.

**Purpose:**

The objective of this policy and procedure is to define the role the JJIMHT assumes in support of Probation's S-3 Classification/Status and the prevention of suicide within the facility.

**Details:**

1. Mental Health Suicide Risk Assessment
  - A. Assessment for suicide potential is of primary concern for all disciplines within the YDF and a risk assessment is included in each contact JJIMHT clinicians have with the youth detained in the facility.

- B. Assessment shall include specific questions regarding past and current suicidality, review of available records, Probation and/or Mental Health, relevant information obtained from the arresting entity, family members, facility staff, legal representatives and/or community mental health providers.
  - C. JJIMHT clinicians shall consider all relevant suicide risk factors to determine current level of risk and make clinically appropriate recommendation(s) to the Supervising Probation Officer (SPO) based upon current risk level.
2. Assigning Level of Risk
- A. JJIMHT clinical staff shall consider various suicide risk factors to aid the determination of which of 3 risk levels of risk to recommend:
    - I. S-3 High: May include current serious suicide attempt/gestures, history of potentially lethal suicide attempts, current suicidal thoughts/threat(s) with realistic plan and genuine intent to harm him/herself, acute psychiatric disturbance among other risk factors.
    - II. S-3 Moderate: May include recent suicide attempts, current suicidal ideation without realistic plan or genuine intent to harm him/herself, youth improved from previous S-3 High status among other risk factors.
    - III. S-3 Low: May include recent suicidal ideation, at-risk behavior within the past year, difficulty functioning within the facility, symptoms related to psychiatric disorders causing distress, low lethality self-harming behavior among other risk factors.
  - B. Youth having been recommended for S-3 High status by a JJIMHT clinician shall not be reduced from S-3 High to S-3 Low prior to having been assessed as S-3 Moderate for at least 24 hours.
  - C. JJIMHT clinicians will consult with and make recommendations to the SPO for direct and indirect interventions relevant to the recommended suicide risk level to assist in the management and/or prevention of youth engaging in self-injurious behavior.
  - D. Youth identified as at risk for suicide shall not be denied the opportunity to participate in facility programs, services and activities which are available to other non-suicidal youth, unless deemed necessary for the safety of the youth or security of the facility.
3. Minimum Mental Health Contact Intervals for S-3 Status
- A. Youth classified with an S-3 status will be seen individually by a JJIMHT clinician at minimum intervals of:
    - I. S-3 High: Evaluated daily.
    - II. S-3 Moderate: Evaluated at least once per week.
    - III. S-3 Low: Evaluated at least once per month.
  - B. Following each mental health contact with youth, JJIMHT clinicians will record the youth's current S-3 status (yes or no), risk level (high, moderate or low) and the date on the Current S-3 List.
  - C. The JJIMHT Program Coordinator, or his/her designee, will update the Current S-3 List on a bi-weekly basis to indicate current S-3 status, risk level, date of last

evaluation and ensure mental health referrals are completed in order to comply with the minimum contact intervals.

4. Removal from S-3 Status

- A. Youth may request a re-evaluation and removal of their S-3 status when the following criteria have been met:
  - I. Suicide attempt/gesture free for at least 1 year.
  - II. Free of verbalizing suicidal ideation/intent or acting out in an unsafe manner for at least 6 months.
  - III. The youth has been in custody for 60 consecutive days without having been considered of a higher suicide risk than S-3 Low.
- B. JJIMHT clinicians will review the mental health record, available Probation record(s), interview youth requesting removal of S-3 status and complete the Suicide Prevention Guidelines form to assess the appropriateness of the request.
- C. The completed Suicide Prevention Guidelines form shall be forwarded to the JJIMHT Program Coordinator. The JJIMHT Program Coordinator will review the youth's mental health record and available Probation record(s) to assess the appropriateness of the request.
- D. Requests for S-3 removal will be discussed in the JJIMHT Psychiatric Rounds/Staff Meeting. Recommendation for the removal of S-3 status will not be made if disagreement over the removal exists.
- E. JJIMHT recommendations for S-3 removal will be made to the Classification Officer or SPO who has the authority to remove the youth from S-3 status. JJIMHT clinicians do not have the authority to remove youth from S-3 status.
- F. Youth who have been assigned an S-3 Low status solely by the Classification Officer or SPO as a precaution pending a mental health assessment may have the S-3 status removed following the JJIMHT clinician's assessment and consultation with the Classification Officer or SPO.

**Related Policies:**

BHS-CMH-YDF-02-02-Confidentiality

BHS-CMH-YDF-06-02-Suicide Prevention Program

BHS-CMH-YDF-06-06-Recommendations to Probation

BHS-CMH-YDF-06-08-Daily Unit Rounds

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