

Young people who enter the jail stay for a long time. According to records provided to SPLC by the Jail, as of October 22, 2013, there were 29 boys and girls who entered the Jail under the age of 18. The average time spent in the Jail for these children before their 18th birthday was 236 days. The average number of days spent in Jail for these children *total* was 313.

C. Jail Layout

The Jail consists of nine floors with detainees housed on floors two through eight. Men and boys are housed on floors two, three, four, six, seven, eight and nine, while women and girls are housed on the fifth floor.

Floor	Function
1 st	Booking
2 nd	Medical Unit and Suicide Watch
3 rd	Medical Unit and Disciplinary Segregation
4 th	Nonviolent Detainees, Children Under 16 Years of Age

95(8)(b)-7..15789(t)-2.53658(a)3.210J

upon the guard on duty, the one free hour may be cut short or completely denied for arbitrary reasons. At least 14 of the children SPLC spoke with have spent time in solitary confinement.

Women and Girls

Women and girls are housed on the fifth floor. The Jail has designated B block as the maximum security, protective custody, and medical unit for women. Girls in B block remain in their cells for 23 hours a day, with one free hour. Depending on space, women and girls may be confined alone. As with maximum security for men, an individual's free hour may be cut short or denied altogether depending on the deputy on duty. SPLC spoke with two girls who were housed in the Jefferson County Jail. Both spent most of their time in 23-hour isolation as either punishment or protective custody.

Psychology and Toxicology Bin

Children housed in adult facilities are among the most vulnerable population in jails and prisons.⁶ National studies and research on the harm to youth housed in adult facilities confirms that children are at a higher risk for physical and sexual assault, along with an increased risk for psychological trauma.⁷ The conditions for children in the Jail perfectly correspond with the dangers identified in these studies. Children in the Jail endure lengthy time periods in solitary confinement, are subjected to inappropriate sexual contact and conduct, have to be continuously on guard for physical assault, and are subject to verbal and physical abuse from guards.

These traumatic experiences damage these young people and exacerbate any existing mental health issues. Witnessing traumatic events negatively impacts the well-being and mental

dangerous because of the threat of violence and sexual abuse by older detainees. The use of solitary confinement, however, is also damaging to children's psychological well-being. Despite this reality, children in the Jail are routinely held in solitary confinement for lengthy periods of

engages in fights with preying detainees. As a result of the fights, she has spent approximately 11 months of her two and half years in the Jail housed in solitary confinement.¹⁹

Children are also witness to inappropriate sexual conduct by detainees, including detainees masturbating in full view of others and having sex in areas that can be viewed by others.

dissuade this child from testifying against another individual in court. Following the attack, the boy pressed the intercom button for medical attention, but guards failed to respond for approximately two hours. During that two hour period, a second fight occurred between the boy and one of the attackers. Jail records describe his face as “disfigured.” The boy’s attorney sought and obtained an order to place him in protective custody for his remaining time at the Jail. This young man is currently suffering psychological hardship while in isolation.²⁰ This situation highlights the dilemma that staff in adult facilities face when discerning safe housing for youth.

Female guards sometimes permit fights on the women’s floor to continue for a while before calling male deputies to break up the fight. Guards on other floors follow suit. Gregory, a youth who arrived at the prison when he was 16, witnessed a fight that occurred in full view of the command station. The guard appeared to intentionally ignore the altercation. Eventually, the fight ended on its own; the guard never intervened. Most guards do not intervene in fights; instead, they wait for the fight to end and then commence dispensing punishment to participants.

Guards are particularly nonresponsive to the intercom in the hole. This is troublesome given the psychological issues young people face when isolated and the potential physical threat they may suffer if housed with a cell mate for 23 h

guard that his time was not up yet, the guard—the sole staff person on the floor—left the command station and began to push Frederick forcibly up the stairs to the cell. When Frederick verbally protested, saying that he could walk himself to the cell, the guard responded saying,

Jail at intake. For other children, conditions have developed over the course of their stay in the Jail. Medications used to treat mental health conditions are not provided consistently. More than a quarter of the children have never received any medication, despite informing the Jail that they were taking medications immediately prior to their arrival to the Jail. Some children resort to using medication prescribed to other detainees to find relief from their symptoms. Jacob made repeated requests for his medication that went unanswered, then simply gave up asking for mental health services.

When young people do receive a mental health evaluation and treatment, that treatment is inadequate to care for them. Prior to being housed in the Jail, Lawrence, a 17-year-old who arrived at the jail when he was 16, was on a number of medications for several conditions including depression, schizophrenia, obsessive compulsive disorder, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). The Jail has not continued any of his previous medications. His

to feel as if he would pass out, so he called the guard repeatedly on his intercom. It took two hours for a guard to respond to the intercom and attend to Eric. While waiting for the guard to help him, Eric got into another fight with one of t

opportunity for children in the Jail despite the 313-day average length of stay.²⁴ Moreover, children in protective custody are automatically denied access to these services. The absence of an adequate education decreases the likelihood of f

Children are unable to engage in basic hygiene. They are permitted to shower only once every four days and change clothing once a week. Fredrick told SPLC staff that while he was in the hole, he was permitted to shower just twice in a 21-day period. Laundry is completed once a

Moreover, guards fail to give children their legal mail and interfere with children's attempts to send outgoing legal mail. Several children have not received mail from SPLC staff marked "legal mail." Delays in receiving legal mail span from two weeks to three months. A guard took a letter from Lawrence addressed to SPLC and marked "Legal Mail" regarding his need of critical services the Jail denied him. After reading the letter, the guard told Lawrence "you can't send a letter like this" and kept the letter. Lawrence got upset and started to cry. The guard put him in "time out"—the telephone visitation area—for four hours as punishment.

X Conclusion

The conditions described above are troublesome for any person residing in the Jefferson County Jail, but the unique vulnerabilities of children indicate that the conditions are dire for the young people housed there.

These issues highlight the dangers associated with housing children in adult facilities. Because the pote04(e)3.15789(e)-6.8I li.(b“(n)-1q’)3.±.53414(.)-0.(p)-0.9.06272(o)-0.95641028(n)-