



Anoka County Secure Program (ACS)

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<http://www.anokacounty.us/1341/Anoka-County-Secure-Program>

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“Working To Build A Safer Community”

Program Philosophy

1. Intake Orientation: Youth admitted to Anoka County Secure (ACS) are required to read the student handbook, learn their introduction, and review their individual due process contract. Staff will also assess the youth to ensure they enter group chemical free with a basic understanding of the program expectations and pose low risk to the safety and security of other peers, staff, or the facility.

2. Philosophy: ACS operates from a basis of personal responsibility. Excuses for inappropriate and/or illegal behavior are not tolerated. Despite hardships a youth may have faced in the past it is our belief that he must learn to make more responsible choices both now and in the future. Youth are required to examine their thinking and behavioral patterns which allow for violation of others, work to understand the effects of their behavior on others, and develop a re-offense/support plan. The youth work to replace their negative and/or criminal thinking and behavior with pro-social thinking and behavior. It is hoped that through an honest examination of his current choices and their effect they will gain the motivation to change. However, ultimately change is a choice that only the youth can make.

3. Classification System: Our facility is an all male facility, with three separate programs. Our Short Term program consists of youth on all contracts, court detention, detention and waiting placement. Our Long Term program is for youth who have been adjudicated of a felony criminal offense and have a history of other adjudications and/or inappropriate behaviors. Length of stay for the Long Term program is 4-12 months. Our Sex Specific program is for youth who have been adjudicated of a sex specific crime. Length of stay for the Sex Specific varies from 9-18 months.

Program Descriptions

1. Detention, Court Detention and Waiting Placement

Pre-adjudicated juvenile offenders, youth held on probation violations awaiting a court appearance, or youth waiting to transfer to another placement. These youth are housed in the STC pod with other youth that are on a contract program. Detention, court detention, waiting placement youth receive all the same rights and privileges of contract youth. Each youth will attend school Monday – Friday and receive recreation, visitation and church throughout the week. Youth are not allowed to wear personal clothing, facility clothing will be provided.

2. Weekend Program

Two-day (48 hour) program for males ages 12-18 who have been adjudicated on a new offense or violation of probation. W/E program generally runs 7:00 pm Friday to 6:00 pm Sunday but may be scheduled at other periods of the week. Short-term (low dose) consequence for residents to focus on individual risk factors relating to a pattern of negative choices or victimizing behavior. Focus is coordinated with the referring case manager. Referring agents will schedule a specific time of admission and discharge. Confirm admission and discharge times with facility staff if you have questions. Entering or exiting earlier or later than scheduled is not allowed. Please accompany your child into the facility to provide critical admission information, medication and insurance information. Weekend program residents do not need to their own clothing as they are provided facility clothing.

3. 10/5 Program

This program consists of your child being placed for 10 days at ACS with an option to earn "good days." For each "good day" completed, youth will have one day subtracted from his 10-day stay. Therefore, youth could be released from the program within five days. A "good day" consists of a day in which youth is not involved in a program violation and completes all his schoolwork for that day. Youth enrolled in school are required to complete five (5) days of schoolwork during their stay. Arrival time for 10/5 programs is usually set for Sunday night between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. Please be cognizant of the specific arrival time given by ACS staff or your son's probation officer. We will not allow youth in early, if we have other youth arriving that were scheduled for that time. Please remember to accompany your child into the building and provide an insurance at this time. If everything goes well, your child may depart the following Friday night between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. It is suggested that a call be made to ACS verify the release date. Youth are not allowed to wear personal clothing, facility clothing will be provided.

4. Short Term Program (30/15, 60/30, 90/60, 120/60)

The Short Term Program is for juvenile male offenders adjudicated on a new offense or violation of probation. A program contract outlines what is expected of the youth and includes both individual and group assignments. Each youth must "earn" days in the program to successfully complete his court ordered program. For example, a youth ordered on a 60/30 program has 60 days in which to earn 30 "good days." Typically days are not earned when youth do not complete assignments or tasks, or fail to fulfill their obligations for group functioning. Since the program is based on group process, inappropriate behavior of others may also result in failure to earn a good day. Though this is relatively rare, the purpose is to both increase the level of group members investment with one another along with the understanding of how one persons behavior impacts others. All such interventions are processed with the group and individuals involved. Short Term Program youth will complete assignments throughout their contract that identify with the negative behaviors and criminal thinking. In order to pass their days, youth are expected to be honest on their assignments and be prepared to be challenged on the distortions. Youth are not allowed to wear personal clothing, facility clothing will be provided.

5. Long Term Group Residential

Youth ordered to the Long Term program are those who have been adjudicated of a felony criminal offense and have a history of other adjudications and/or inappropriate behaviors. Average length of stay for the Long Term program varies 4-13 months. His willingness to work on his problems and completion of his identified goals will determine his length of stay. Youth will receive a length of stay with minimum and maximum release dates at their initial staffing. Based on collateral information and YLS scores, an individual plan will be developed which will address his high risk factors and criminogenic needs. From there, specific goals/objectives and assignments will be established. Residents should expect a group program in a positive peer atmosphere. A full day school programming and regular group counseling are two components of the program. Basic living skills, alternative ways of dealing with life situations, and correcting distortion in thinking incorporated into daily functioning. The resident should be prepared for a structured environment that disciplines disrespect towards staff and group members. Long Term youth are allowed to wear their own clothing, as long as it fits within the facility standards.

6. Sex Specific Program (SSP)

The Sex Specific Program is designed for youth who have committed a sexual offense(s). The Anoka County Juvenile Center's Correctional Programs contract with Michael O'Brien who is a licensed psychologist that has worked with sexual offenders and their families for over twenty years. Youth in the Sex Specific Program are typically between the ages of 14 and 18 and either are not seen as good candidates for outpatient or inpatient non-secure placement, or have failed at these placements. The program incorporates a systems approach where the family is seen as an essential component in the youth's change process. Accountability, ownership for their offense, victim empathy, learning to control offending patterns, working through any of the youth's own victimization history, and healthy sexual expression are fundamental elements of the program. Emphasis is placed on responsibility for choices, awareness of sexual thoughts and feelings, the impact of family of origin, and the need to make necessary changes in how the youth operate in relationship to others. As part of his program work, youth are required to complete a minimum of twelve specific assignments including an autobiography, offense story, sexual history, family of origin, ingredients which contributed to sexual offense, victim empathy letter or role play, apology letter or role play to victim(s), and a re-offense/support plan. Sex Specific youth are allowed to wear their own clothing, as long as it fits within the facility standards.

7. Primary Counselors: All residents at ACS have an assigned primary counselor. Their counselor will be the primary staff contact for you to assist in answering questions. Any personal belongings (clothing, reading materials, etc) must be pre-approved by youth's primary counselor before being bought into the facility.

8. Medical Information: Families are responsible for providing medical information to ACS staff at the time of the intake. Specifically, parents are expected to provide an insurance card and information. A nurse is on duty during the weekdays. Youth notify staff of any medical problems and staff notifies the nurse as needed. Parents are contacted of any illness or injury of more than a minor nature. Youth may be placed on bed rest for a minimum of 24 hours by staff or the nurse. Only medical appointments which are necessary to complete during a youth's placement will be made. We require all other appointments to be delayed until the youth leaves placement. When the youth attains the appropriate level you may be asked to transport him to a needed appointment.

Policies & Guidelines

Mail Policy

All letters are opened in front of youth and checked for contraband. Youth are allowed to send out one letter per day. Parents may provide pre-stamped envelopes to mail more than one letter a day.

Visiting Policy

Visitation Days & Times

Day	Time	
Thursday	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	
Saturday	7:00 am - 9:00 am	
Sunday	7:00 am - 9:00 am & 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	

****Parents will only be allowed in on the hour on Sundays and on the half hour on other visiting days. Parents are allowed to leave whenever they are ready, but will only be admitted in at the designated times**

2. General Visiting Rules:

- All visitors must have a picture ID.
- All visitors must sign in on the visitor's log.
- All additional clothing that you wish to bring in needs to be pre-approved by your child's primary. Anything brought in that has not been pre-approved will not be accepted.
- Probation offices, attorneys, social workers and court-ordered counselors may visit students during reasonable hours. Prior notification is requested.
- If a parent cannot visit during any of the listed weekly visiting times, arrangements can be made for an alternative weekly visit by contacting your child's primary counselor at least one day in advance.
- A limit of THREE visitors at one time, to include a parent or legal guardian.
- No purses or cell phones are allowed in the buildings.
- Clothing and hygiene supplies may be brought in during visits if pre-approved by youth's primary counselor.
- There are vending machines for use during your visit. No food/drinks will be allowed to be brought into the facility.
- No glass containers.
- No books, magazines, cards or board games can be brought into the facility.
- No use of the pool table, ping pong table, gaming devices or radio.

3. Eligible Visitors:

- Parents.
- Legal guardian(s).
- Siblings over age 18 who are accompanied by parent, if the siblings have been approved in advance of the visit by the Primary Counselor.
- Long Term Program Youth may have siblings under 18 years of age visit if the siblings have been pre-approved by the Primary Counselor and siblings are accompanied by a parent.

Phone Policy

1. Guidelines:

Youth are allowed to make phone calls to parents or guardians during visiting hours once they have achieved the appropriate level or with their primary counselor's permission. Youth make phone calls with at least two other youth present. Staff will place the call and will ask for the parent. Youth on the phone may only talk to individuals that they are approved to speak with (parents, other allowed guardians), and may not engage in any type of conversations with any other individuals without permission. Youth must remain respectful and may not use profanity or engage in any gang-related or other inappropriate conversation. If the youth receives no answer from the initial person they would like called, they may leave a message. This will constitute as their phone call, and they will not be able to talk to that person should they call back later on in the day/night, unless staff approves it. Due to the interruptions caused to programming, we do not allow incoming phone calls for the youth. If you need to talk about a youth, feel free to call the primary counselor. Of course, if you have an emergency you can talk to staff at anytime.

Clothing Policy

1. Guidelines:

Youth in the Short Term pod (youth on contracts, detention, court detention, waiting placement) may not have their own clothing, facility clothing will be provided. Long Term and Sex Specific Program are allowed to wear their own clothing after they obtain a certain trust level. Clothing must not have holes or be inappropriate. Inappropriate clothing includes items which: promote rock bands or music which is judged to have offensive lyrics; displays or represents drugs; and that which displays swearing or offensive symbols; or is embellished; or has gang connections.

Upon intake, a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, and comb are provided if youth do not have their own. Hygiene products may be brought in by parents. All pants must fit properly on the youth's waist, oversized pants will not be allowed. If youth come in with inappropriate clothes, they will be provided with the appropriate attire. The Center supplies books and magazines and we do not accept them unless approved by the youth's primary counselor. Once youth receive ML3 status they may have two bracelets, one necklace, and a watch.

Education

Youth attend a full school program which follows a special education model in the sense that it focuses on individualized educational development, small group sizes, and is staffed with special education certified teachers. Students receive individualized academic instruction in the classes that focus on basic academic skills. Group process continues in the school setting and aids in the development of improved behavioral patterns. Upon discharge, credit hours and grades earned at ACS are reported to the student's next school.

1. Outcomes:

- Students improve academically and behaviorally
- Students develop a foundation upon which to continue with their education and/or with vocational plans after discharge from the Pines School
- Students' community schools and Pines School effectively coordinate the student's IEP
- When discharged, Pines School reports to the student's next school and student's parents: progress, credit hours, and grades earned school and student's parents: progress, credit hours, and grades earned



Directions

From the North: I-35 S to I-35W S, right off exit 36 onto Lake Drive, left onto Apollo Dr, right onto Lilac St, left onto 4th ave, next right into campus.

From the South: I-35W N to exit 36 in Lino Lakes, left onto Lake Drive, left onto Apollo Dr, right onto Lilac St, left onto 4th ave, next right into campus.

From the West: Hwy 10 to I-35W N, right off exit 36 onto Lake Drive, left onto Apollo Dr, right onto Lilac St, left onto 4th ave, next right into campus.

From the East: I-694 W to I-35W N, right off exit 36 onto Lake Drive, left onto Apollo Dr, right onto Lilac St, left onto 4th ave, next right into campus.