

CHILD AND YOUTH CARE CENTERS

(Section 191 – 212 of the Act)

NORMS AND STANDARDS FOR CHILD AND YOUTH CARE CENTERS

(Section 194 of the Act)

Core programmes to be offered at the Child and Youth Care centers

Programmes must meet the developmental, therapeutic and recreational needs of children at the Child and Youth Care Centers:

1. Therapeutic Programme:

- Developmental Assessment programme
- Psycho Social support
- Individual counseling
- Group counselling
- Trauma counseling
- Grieve counselling
- Play therapy
- Family therapy including parenting plans, stress management, conflict resolution, positive communication, positive discipline and behavior change
- Counselling to children exposed to child labor , sexual exploitation and trafficking etc

2. Developmental programme

- Victim empowerment
- Family Preservation
- After Care
- Life Skills
- Independent living for children disengaging from the residential care programme
- Income generating activities
- Promotion of Rights for Children

3. Recreational programme

- Sports
- Art
- Drama
- Dancing
- Singing
- Board games

- Every child in a child and youth care centers **MUST** have a permanency plan based on a developmental assessment of the child
- The child **MUST** participate in the development of the permanency plan and be informed about the plan and changes to it

5. Individual Development Plan (IDP)

- Children **MUST** receive services in accordance with their individual development plan which facilitates their well-being within a temporary programme and enable them, where necessary to make a successful transition to new circumstances
- Every child in a child and youth care center has a right to permanency planning which include reunification, security and life-long relationship
- Every child has the right to participate in formulating his or her individual plan and be informed about their plan, and to be involved in discussions to make changes to their plan
- IDP **MUST** be based on an appropriate and competent assessment of their developmental needs and strengths and where reasonably possible, be in the context of their family and community environments
- Family of the child/ significant other/ other person that the child has build a bond with, **MUST** be involved in the child's IDP, unless it is shown that this would not e in the best interest of the child
- There **MUST** be a review of each child's placement and IDP at least once every six months whilst the child remain in the center



6. Temporary Safe Care

- Every Child and Youth Care center **MUST** provide temporary safe care to children if appropriate and if the center allows for it
- Every child **SHOULD** be placed in temporary safe care for the shortest period possible and for the minimum number of days per week appropriate to their needs
- After reception of a child, developmental assessment **MUST** take place to evaluate a more permanent placement of the child
- Children that are in conflict with the law **MUST** be offered the option of diversion in a manner which protects their rights and involves them and their families in decision making
- Children **MUST** be given information about their rights and responsibilities within the programmes in a manner and form which takes into account their age (**level of maturity**)

7. Protection from abuse and neglect

- Children in child and youth care centers **SHOULD** be received in an environment that is caring and safe climate which minimize trauma and maximize developmental opportunities
- The environment **SHOULD** protect children from physical, social and emotional harm and threats of harm from themselves and others
- Children **MUST** be informed about policy and procedures regarding reportable incidents or actions and **MUST** be provided with information and knowledge which ensures that they can use these procedures effectively when needed

8. Assessment of children:

- Assessment of children in a CYCC's must be undertaken by the multidisciplinary team
- The assessment of must take place within 48 hours of the child's admission to the center and be reviewed on a regular basis
- Assessment must be strengths based, holistic and appropriate for the child's culture, language and developmental

9. Family reunification and reintegration:

- Every child should have a care plan which aims to provide life-long relationships with their family or appropriate alternative and re-integration in the family and community within the shortest possible time-frame

10. After Care:

- Children should receive after care programmes focusing on the support in terms of training, education, employment, independent living, family & community integration

11. Access to and provision of adequate health care:

- All children in the CYCC's must have access to health care services and where the center is registered

12. Access to schooling, education and ECD:

- All children in the CYCC's must have access to education, schooling, appropriate training, skills programme, ECD
- Education be accessed at a school or training facility in the community

13. Security measures for child and youth care centers:

- children must experience safety and feel cared for
- Premises must be safe
- There should be adult supervision at all times

14. Measures for the separation of children in secure care programmes from children in other programmes

- Children in secure care programme must as far as reasonably possible be kept separately from children in other programmes. Such children must be separated at night, and where they are not separated during the day this must be managed as part of a residential care programme that provides appropriate containment.
- Children in secure care programme who are awaiting trial and children housed who have been sentenced may be housed in the same facility, provided that the Child and Youth Care centre is registered to provide appropriate programmes for such children, and the residential care programme provide for appropriate containment.

NORMS AND STANDARDS

1. Residential Care Programme

- Children **MUST** be received in a manner and climate which is caring and safe and which minimize trauma and maximizes developmental opportunities during engagement or admission processes
- Children **MUST** receive services in a safe environment in which they are protected from physical, social and emotional harm
- Children **MUST** be accommodated in a safe, healthy, well maintained environment, which provides appropriate access to the community and which meet their needs in terms of privacy, safety and well-being
- All reasonable measures **MUST** be taken to ensure that children and staff are safe from risk of fire, accidents and other hazards

2. Therapeutic Programme

- Privacy and confidentiality of children **MUST** be respected and protected
- A child **MUST** access to legal or other assistance to prepare for any court process that he/she is involved with
- Children **MUST** receive emotional and social care which enables quality interaction with adult and peers and which promotes positive, sustained relationships at school and with families, significant others and friends.
- Every child and youth care center **MUST** offer a residential care programme that provides a therapeutic environment for the care and development of children
- Every child **MUST** receive an effective and appropriate development assessment and referral service which should lead to appropriate placement
- Every child **MUST** be provided with the capacity and support which enables constructive and offensive social behavior
- Therapeutic programmes **MUST** be conducted by service providers with appropriate training, support, supervision and mentoring
- Therapeutic programme **MUST** be conducted in a non-discriminatory manner
- Therapeutic programmes **MUST** minimize secondary abuse and trauma
- Therapeutic programmes **MUST** ensure that concerns and complains are addressed seriously
- Therapeutic programme **MUST** be sensitive to the linguistic needs, religious and cultural norms and values of children and their families

3. Developmental programmes

- A child development plan and programme **MUST** be based on an appropriate and complete assessment of his/her developmental needs and strengths
- Every child in a child and youth care center **MUST** participate in formulating their care plans and developmental plans and must be informed of those plans

4. Permanency plans for children