

Classification in Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR)

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) updated the classification system in Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR). This updated system balances risks and the individual needs of young people through a full review that helps JR provide treatment and maintain safety.

Classification levels define a young person's risks and restrictions while in JR. Young people can move from secure facilities to community programs based in part due to their level. A young person entering a community program must be at the minimum level. This means that the young person has shown that they have a low risk to their communities. If a young person's behavior changes, so does their classification level.

A young person will have one of four levels based on their sentencing, CBA, behavior, and multidisciplinary risk review committee recommendations.

Levels include:

- **Maximum:** Young people must be in a secure facility. Young people have the most restrictions and supervision.
- **Medium:** Young people must be in a secure facility. Young people can access all programs within the perimeter.
- **Institution Minimum:** Young people can participate in programs outside the perimeter. Young people may be eligible for Community Facility placement.
- **Minimum:** Young people can participate in Community Transition Services or Community Facilities. This classification has the least restrictions for young people.

Through this approach, JR has built a clear process for staff and young people. As a result, JR has seen an improvement in community safety.

In 2023, JR started to make improvements to fix challenges with the previous system. Improvements include an enhanced assessment approach, quality control measures, and policy development.

Through this approach, staff improved completion rates of Client Behavior Assessments (CBAs) from 71% to 83% over four months. The CBA helps inform classification by focusing on factors such as behavior changes, employment status, and substance



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