



Residents play basketball during recreation time at Bethel Youth Facility.

## To Contact Your Child

You can contact your child:

By phone:

- 907-543-4733
- 800-478-9559 BYF Switchboard (Select Treatment)

By mail:

- PO Box 1989, Bethel, AK 99559

The residents may receive and make telephone calls to parents and guardians. Everyone else must be approved by the resident's Probation Officer or the Unit Supervisor. BYF will not accept Collect Calls.

## Directions to BYF

If you're arriving from out of town via the airport or small boat harbor, several taxi companies are available, with phones on-site to call a cab. Fares range from \$5 to \$7. The Bethel Youth Facility is located at 950 State Highway, between YKDR Hospital and the YK Correctional Center. The front entrance is open from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. For access on weekends, holidays, or after hours, use the left side entrance and ring the buzzer for assistance.

## How Do I Visit?

### APPROVED VISITORS

With approval, children under 18 may visit with an adult, and visits from spiritual advisors or clergy can be arranged. Immediate family may visit without prior approval; all others must be pre-approved by staff. Individuals on probation or SIS must have authorization from a Probation Officer or Unit Supervisor to visit.

### PROHIBITED ITEMS

You may not bring these items inside our facility. Please ask Staff if you have any questions.

- Weapons or potential weapons
- Cell phones and mp3 players
- Recording devices (including smart watches)
- Cameras
- Laptops, flash drives, or anything that connects to the Internet
- Gum, tobacco, marijuana, and vaping products
- Prescription drugs, unless they are life-sustaining
- Illegal drugs or paraphernalia
- Alcohol
- Money\*
- Food or drinks\*  
\*unless preapproved

### VISITATION DAYS & HOURS

- Tuesdays 7:00 – 8:00 pm
- Saturdays: 2:00 – 3:00 pm

If these times do not work, call ahead to request an alternative visit.

## What to Expect During Visiting

All visitors entering the Detention Unit are subject to search by metal detector. This is to ensure the safety and security of all our residents.

Please bring your state issued photo I.D. with you when visiting.

We ask that you do not bring any other personal items with you. Please leave your purse, cell phone, or any other personal items in your car or in the lockers provided.



# Bethel Youth Facility

## Treatment Unit

950 State Hwy  
PO Box 1989  
Bethel, AK 99559

907-543-5200

# Our mission

To hold juvenile offenders accountable for their behavior, promote the safety and restoration of victims and communities, and assist offenders and their families in developing skills to prevent crime.

## History

The Bethel Youth Facility (BYF), opened in 1987, provides a safe and secure environment for youth involved in delinquent or criminal behavior. It includes a 12-bed Detention Unit and an 11-bed Treatment Unit. A recent renovation and expansion project has strengthened the facility's ability to support current and future programs.

Staff work closely with residents, their families, communities, and when appropriate, victims, to help youth develop the skills needed to return home and contribute to their communities. Because we understand that out-of-home placement can be stressful, families are included in the treatment process. Each resident's parent or guardian will also be contacted by the Mental Health Clinician to offer additional support.

## Performance Based Standards (Pbs)

Performance-based Standards (PbS) is a national program that helps juvenile facilities identify, monitor, and improve conditions and rehabilitation services. Bethel Youth Facility joined PbS in 2004 and has since used its standards to strengthen services and support successful youth re-entry into the community.



Treatment unit residents enjoy ice fishing.

## Treatment

Since 1988, BYF has provided long-term, culturally relevant treatment for youth in the YK Delta. Individual treatment plans use evidence-based, strength-based, and trauma-informed approaches to help residents build social skills, reduce delinquency, reflect local values, and support community and victim restoration.

Each resident works with a Treatment Team to set personalized goals for growth and behavior change. Educational services are provided by the local school district, including support for special needs students. Residents also receive comprehensive medical and mental health care. In collaboration with Probation Officers, transitional aftercare services are being developed to support successful reintegration into the community.

## Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

The Division of Juvenile Justice follows the Federal PREA policy, which has a zero tolerance policy on any sexual contact or sexually inappropriate comments toward anyone being held in custody. BYF works with other state facilities to prevent sexual harassment and assault in juvenile centers. Reporting abuse takes courage, especially when it feels risky. To report abuse or if you experience any kind of retaliation because you reported a crime call 877-765-2212.

## Community Involvement

As a state facility, BYF benefits from community involvement. Since all residents return to the community, public understanding and support are vital to their success. BYF maintains an open-door policy, welcoming individuals and groups to tour the facility or join its volunteer program.

## Volunteers

The volunteer program invites adults and elders to share their skills with youth through activities like guitar lessons, cooking, arts and crafts, games, or group discussions. Volunteers offer positive role models and often build lasting connections with residents.

To get involved, call the facility to connect with the Volunteer Coordinator.

## Grievance Policy

Residents or family members who feel they have a complaint that they want addressed can file a grievance several ways:

- Verbally express concerns to a Unit Supervisor
- Request and submit a Grievance Form to staff
- Contact the Office of the Ombudsman

The Office of the Ombudsman (800-478-2564) investigates complaints against State Government agencies and employees.

## Facility Contacts

Administration	907-543-5200
Juvenile Probation	907-543-5200
Treatment Unit	907-543-4733
Detention Unit	907-543-4726
Medical	907-543-4712
Mental Health	907-543-4731
School	907-543-4716