



MSYF residents read books during leisure time.

Mat-Su Secondary School

The Mat-Su Borough School District curriculum is delivered via Mat-Su Secondary School, co-located on the MSYF campus. The mission of the school is to help students become citizens of good character with a range of skills necessary for success in life.

What to Expect During Visiting

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

Please bring your state-issued photo ID with you when visiting.

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

A resident may have up to three guests at a time. Visitors and their children are expected to behave in an orderly and respectful manner while on the Detention Unit. Should visiting become unruly, the visitation can be canceled.

How Do I Visit?

APPROVED VISITORS

Authorized visitors may include a resident's parents, guardian, and siblings. Attorneys, clergy, government officials, and media representatives may be approved for visitation on a case-by-case basis. Visitors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and be approved prior to the visit.

Each resident at the MSYF Detention Unit has a list of approved visitors. Only those individuals on this list may visit. If you are unsure if you are approved, or have not visited before, call either 907-761-1630 ext. 2 or Toll-Free 877-762-6788 to learn more.

UNAPPROVED VISITORS

The following individuals may not visit residents of MSYF:

- Any individual who has been released from MSYF in the last 60 days.
- Any visitor who has been found in violation of Visiting Guidelines.
- Persons on felony probation without the permission of both the Superintendent and their probation officers.
- Persons suspected to be under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

VISITATION DAYS & HOURS

Sundays & Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Special Visits

If you are a family member visiting from out of town, please call and inform us of your availability and we will schedule a visiting time.

If you'd like to bring food and/or drinks onto the Detention Unit, please let us know in advance. Items without prior approval will not be permitted.

Mat-Su Youth Facility

581 Outer Springer Loop
Palmer, AK 99645

907-746-1630 ext 2 or
Toll-Free: 877-762-6788

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.

About

Mat-Su Youth Facility (MSYF) opened in 2000. MSYF is a co-ed, 15 bed facility that serves an ever-increasing need by the youth and families in the Mat-Su Valley. MSYF also serves youth from Glennallen, Valdez, Cordova, Kodiak, and the Aleutian Chain.

Strength Based Program, Trauma Informed Care

Our goal is to motivate change by helping residents find positive, effective, and reasonable solutions that are available to them. In order to accomplish this, residents will work to identify their strengths and the strengths of their families. Consistent visiting or contact with family helps foster these important, supportive relationships.

We recognize the importance of residents receiving visits from members of their family while here in our facility and we strongly encourage family members to visit. Telephone contact with family is also strongly encouraged. Residents are allowed 14 phone calls per week to/from approved family members.



Detention residents develop their agriculture skills at MSYF.

Detention

The primary responsibility of the Detention Unit is to provide a secure placement for juveniles (ages 12 - 19) pending completion of the court process and/or transfer to probation, community-based programs, or institutional placement. Although the length of stay for juveniles in detention is relatively short, an effort is made to provide the youth in our custody with experiences that are conducive to positive growth.

Probation

The Mat-Su District Probation Office is responsible for the intervention and supervision of all juveniles who commit delinquent acts (offenses which would be a crime if committed by an adult). By working in collaboration with the youth and their family, the Probation Office strives to help the juvenile move away from delinquency toward a successful life.

Transitional Services Program

The Mat-Su Transitional Services Program/Aftercare (TSP) ensures each youth leaves the institution with the skills and supports required for a successful reintegration into their community. TSP staff work with residents and families at the beginning of the treatment process all the way through to aftercare, providing a continuum of care. By focusing on release plans starting early in treatment, the youth and families maintain the goal throughout the DJJ treatment process.

Detention residents take a break on the exercise equipment in the Fenced Area.



Additional Support Services

A wide variety of support services maintain the high quality of detention care at MSYF. These include: substance abuse prevention, restorative justice activities, food and medical services, maintenance, housekeeping, administrative support, and numerous other community programs helping the youth gain success while in the facility.

A mental health clinician is available as needed to provide residents with mental health support and counseling.

MSYF staff, volunteers, and community members provide life skills competency building via educational, religious, and recreational activities for the youth.

A variety of community service projects are ongoing within the facility. These include baking dog treats for the local animal shelter, assembling Raise-A-Reader packets (reading promotion) given to newborn mothers at the local hospital, and crocheting hats and scarves for the local women's shelter. Greenhouses facilitate agrarian skills development and produce vegetables and flowers for donation to the local senior center throughout the summer months.