

A MYC resident casts a line while on a group fishing expedition for sockeye salmon in Seward, Alaska.



Transitional Service Unit

The McLaughlin Transitional Services Unit (TSU) is strategically crafted to equip every youth exiting the institution with the essential skills and support necessary for a seamless reintegration into the community. TSU personnel collaborate closely with staff, residents, families, and statewide community service providers throughout the treatment continuum and reentry process. By prioritizing release from the start of treatment, TSU ensures that youth and families stay focused on the primary goal of MYC's treatment programs: rehabilitating juvenile offenders.

Community Partners

We are excited to continue our partnership with the University of Alaska Anchorage, offering on-center classes each semester for qualifying youth. We also work with the Anchorage School District to provide a ServSafe Certification/Adult Living class for graduates. Each year, we host the SERRC Transition Camp, a key program for youth nearing the transition phase, though it's open to all eligible participants.

Through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), a federal program that funds vocational and educational training, MYC offers various training opportunities. These include Barista training/Coffee Cart, Northern Industrial Training (NIT), Iron Workers, AlaskaHost, the MYC Facility Work Program (including Housekeeping and Lawn Maintenance), off-center work experiences, and other training programs.

How Do I Visit?

APPROVED VISITORS

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

UNAPPROVED VISITORS

The following individuals may not visit residents of MYC:

- Any individual who has been released from MYC 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.

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
- 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

Sundays & Wednesdays

- Boys Detention Unit (BDU): 5:45 – 7:15 pm
- Secure Treatment Unit (STX): 6:00 – 7:30 pm
- Cognitive Core Restructuring (CCR): 6:00 – 7:30 pm
- Girls Detention Unit (GDU): 6:00 – 7:30 pm
- Boys Treatment Unit (BTU): 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Sundays & Thursdays

- Kehrler Treatment (Girls): 6:00 – 7:30 pm

To coordinate visits during special holidays, please contact the appropriate unit to discuss visitation arrangements.



McLaughlin Youth Center

2600 Providence Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

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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

McLaughlin Youth Center (MYC), dedicated on July 13, 1968, was named after George M. McLaughlin, an Anchorage attorney and magistrate who had been a leader in development of programs for “kids in trouble.”

The Center was part of the Division of Corrections until 1980, when the Division of Family and Youth Services was created to better serve juveniles by uniting institutions, probation, and family services. In July 1999, the Governor established the Department of Health and Social Services, now known as Family and Community Services, reaffirming the shared commitment of state leaders, staff, and communities to preventing juvenile delinquency.

Detention

The Detention Units at MYC are secure placement for juveniles charged with an offense who need to be detained to ensure their appearance in court. The Units are designed to provide a safe, secure setting for juveniles pending completion of their legal process. At MYC, there are two detention units, one for male residents and one for female residents. Staff at these units process the minor's admission to the facility and transport the youth to and from court hearings, medical appointments, and other related activities. Unit staff offer and conduct informational and education groups to provide youth in custody with experiences that are conducive to growth and learning. Unit staff support the protection of the community

and assist offenders and their families to develop competencies to help break the cycle of delinquency.

Detention residents create a mural through an Art Education Program.



Programs and Additional Supports

MYC offers a comprehensive array of programs and supports designed to meet the diverse and evolving needs of youth in secure custody. These include evidence-based rehabilitation and treatment programs focused on personal growth, accountability, and successful reintegration. The facility also supports system-wide coordination by housing the Anchorage Probation Unit and Division of Juvenile Justice State Office positions.

To ensure high-quality care, MYC staff provide essential support services such as medical and mental health care, food service, maintenance, housekeeping, supply administration, and recreational therapy. These core services are further strengthened by a robust volunteer program, which includes dedicated mentors, practicum students from local and out-of-state universities, and a volunteer chaplain who oversees a team of religious volunteers.

Therapeutic Recreation Program

The Therapeutic Recreation Program at MYC aims to foster the holistic development of residents through structured leisure and recreational activities. The program enhances functional skills, provides leisure education, and promotes active recreation participation. This approach supports the residents' personal growth, builds prosocial behaviors, and equips them with the tools to lead healthier, more fulfilling lives.

Cottage Programs

Within a campus environment, three treatment cottages are strategically situated to foster the cultivation of internal controls among residents. Notably, Cottage 5 offers specialized and intensive treatment tailored to juvenile sex offenders, Cottage 4 delivers a cognitive behavioral program primarily addressing substance abuse issues among male juvenile offenders, and Cottage 3 provides treatment custom tailored to meet the specific needs of female juvenile offenders. This framework underscores a holistic approach to rehabilitation and underscores our commitment to addressing individual needs effectively.

Treatment

MYC provides secure, long-term rehabilitation programs designed specifically for juvenile offenders. Central to this approach are individualized treatment plans, thoughtfully developed to meet each resident's unique needs and carried out by a dedicated treatment team. Treatment includes education through the Anchorage School District, along with opportunities for recreation, community service, and building healthy relationships with both adults and peers.

Equally important is our focus on accountability to victims, the community, and oneself. Residents are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions and work toward personal growth and restoration. Through this comprehensive and supportive model, MYC promotes meaningful rehabilitation and helps residents prepare for successful reintegration into society.

Secure Treatment

The Secure Treatment Unit (STX) serves male residents who are newly institutionalized, transitioning from other DJJ facilities, or facing behavioral challenges. It offers long-term treatment and a step-down program, supporting reintegration and addressing disciplinary issues within cottage treatment programs.

STX provides individualized treatment plans to assess and guide residents through the rehabilitation process. In a structured environment, it empowers residents to concentrate on behavior modification, thereby facilitating progress towards their long-term treatment goals.

STX also offers a confidential space for juveniles with serious offenses or behavioral issues, minimizing distractions and encouraging self-reflection and personal change, which improves both individual and community well-being.