



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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June 24, 2022

The Honorable Reggie Jones-Sawyer  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **ASSEMBLY BILL 2321 (JONES-SAWYER) SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 2321.

AB 2321 redefines the exception to room confinement in juvenile facilities for brief periods to a brief period lasting no more than two hours when necessary for institutional operations, and ensures that minors and wards confined at juvenile facilities are provided reasonable access to toilets at all hours, including during normal sleeping hours.

Under existing law, a minor or ward may be held up to four hours in room confinement. After the minor or ward has been held in room confinement for a period of four hours, staff shall either return the minor or ward to general population; consult with mental health or medical staff; or develop an individualized plan that includes the goals and objectives to be met to reintegrate the minor or ward to general population.

If room confinement must be extended beyond four hours, staff is required to document the reason for room confinement and the basis for the extension, the date and time the minor or ward was first placed in room confinement, and when he or she is eventually released from room confinement; develop an individualized plan that includes the goals and objectives to be met in order to reintegrate the minor or ward to general population, and obtain documented authorization by the facility superintendent or his or her designee every four hours thereafter.

Room confinement shall not be used before other less restrictive options have been attempted and exhausted, unless those options pose a threat to the safety or security of any minor, ward, or staff; shall not be used for the purposes of punishment, coercion, convenience, or retaliation by staff; and shall not be used to the extent that it compromises the mental and physical health of the minor or ward.

Under existing law, room confinement does not include confinement of a minor or ward in a single-person room or cell for brief periods of locked room confinement necessary for required

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institutional operations. These rules also do not apply to normal sleeping hours, during emergency circumstances that require a significant departure from normal institutional operations, including a threat that poses an imminent and substantial risk of harm to multiple staff, minors, or wards, or when required for extended care for medical treatment

It is important to note that under existing law, room confinement for a period of up to 4 hours (or more, if certain requirements are met), is permissible in situations that pose a threat to the safety or security of any minor, ward, or staff, and in emergencies. Nothing in AB 2321 would change these provisions.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Daniel Felizzatto in my Sacramento Legislative Office at (916) 442-0668.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gascón", written in a cursive style.

GEORGE GASCÓN  
District Attorney