

## **SOUND TRANSIT SECURITY STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES**

### **SOP-SEC 10-08 Handling Juveniles PAGE 1 of 3**

Effective: 06-01-2017

Supersedes: First Edition 02/01/2010, Second Edition 03/05/2012, Third Edition 12-23-2013

Issuing Office: SECURITY DIVISION-FARE ENFORCEMENT

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## **FARE ENFORCEMENT SOP: HANDLING JUVENILES**

### **1.0 PURPOSE:**

This directive establishes Sound Transit's Standard Operating Procedure for handling juveniles during fare enforcement activities.

### **2.0 SCOPE:**

This directive applies to all Securitas employees assigned to the Sound Transit Contract/Fare Enforcement Division.

### **3.0 DEFINITIONS:**

- a. **FEO** – Fare Enforcement Officer
- b. **Juvenile** – A person under the age of 18
- c. **RCW** – Revised Code of Washington
- d. **Parent or Guardian** – A person having legal authority/custody of a child
- e. **Proof of payment** – means evidence of fare prepayment authorized by a regional transit authority for the use of its facilities
- f. **STPD** – Sound Transit Police Department

### **4.0 AUTHORITY:**

It is Sound Transit's policy to handle juveniles as a special population. RCW 26.28.010 sets the 'Age of Majority' at 18 years of age. RCW 9A.04.050 specifically outlines that a child under 8 years of age is incapable of committing a crime and a child between 8 and 12 is presumed to be incapable of committing a crime. The presumption for a child between 8 and 12 may be removed if there is proof that they have sufficient capacity to understand their actions.

RCW 13.40 is the Juvenile Justice Act of 1977.

RCW 13.40.250 governs traffic and civil infraction cases.

RCW 13.40.070 governs complaints to the juvenile court.

RCW 13.40.100 sets forth that the parents/guardians will be summoned by the court whenever the juvenile is also summoned.

RCW 13.04.030 allows for a court of limited jurisdiction to preside over infractions that are committed when the juvenile is 16 or 17 years of age. The court of limited jurisdiction is generally the District Court of the county where the violation was committed.

### **5.0 JUVENILE VIOLATORS 12 AND UNDER:**

- a. Juveniles 12 and under are presumed to be incapable of committing a crime.
- b. If an FEO contacts a violator under the age of 12 without proper Proof of Payment, they will immediately contact a parent or guardian.
- c. FEOs will attempt to reach agreement on how to resolve the circumstances, including how to safely get the juvenile to their original destination. If the FEO and the parent or guardian are not able to reach agreement, or if the parent or guardian is not able to be reached, the FEO will call Sound Transit police for assistance.
- d. If an FEO contacts Sound Transit Police for assistance, the FEO will not leave the juvenile until Sound Transit Police arrive and take over the contact.
- e. FEOs will not document the contact in the Command Center as a warning or citation but will make a note of the contact on their DAL.

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**6.0 JUVENILE VIOLATORS 15 AND UNDER:**

- a. FEOs will not issue citations to juveniles 15 years of age or under.
  - 1. Warnings will be issued to Juveniles ages 12 to 15 years of age.
  - 2. Notes regarding the infraction will be added to the warning.
  - 3. If a Juvenile 15 years of age or under becomes a habitual violator STPD will be contacted.
- b. As set forth in Section 7.0, whenever an FEO contacts a juvenile without proof of payment who is 15 years of age or under, the FEO will contact the parents/guardians.
- c. The FEO will not take a juvenile off the train and leave them unattended on the platform.
- d. FEOs will not write file Theft of Services charges on juveniles.

**7.0 JUVENILE VIOLATORS 16 AND 17 YEARS OF AGE:**

- a. Juveniles 16 or 17 years of age will be handled as all other SOPs direct.
- b. As set forth in Section 7.0, whenever an FEO contacts a juvenile without proof of payment who is 16 or 17 years of age, the FEO may contact the parents/guardians.
- c. The proper court for these citations is the District Court.
  - 1. King County: South Division, 601 SW 149<sup>th</sup> Street, Burien, WA 98166
  - 2. Pierce County: 5501 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98406
  - 3. Snohomish County: 2801 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Everett, WA 98201

**8.0 CONTACT OF A PARENT/GUARDIAN REQUIRED:**

- a. Whenever a FEO contacts a juvenile without proof of payment who is 15 years of age and under, the FEO shall immediately contact the parent/guardians.
  - a. The FEO will identify the juvenile and obtain a phone number for the parent or guardian.
  - b. The FEO will contact the parent or guardian and explain the circumstances surrounding the contact.
  - c. The FEO will confirm the juveniles identifying information with the parent or guardian.
  - d. The FEO and the parent or guardian will attempt to reach agreement on how to resolve the circumstances, including how to safely get the juvenile to their original destination. If the FEO and the parent or guardian are not able to reach agreement, or if the parent or guardian is not able to be reached, the FEO will call Sound Transit police for assistance.
  - e. The FEO will explain the potential for a citation to the parent.
- b. FEOs will treat juveniles who are 16 or 17 years of age in the same manner as adults when they are issued with an infraction. The FEO, as a courtesy, may, depending on the surrounding circumstances, contact a parent/guardian to advise them of the citation and the circumstances surrounding the charge, however, this is not required.
- c. FEOs will ensure the juvenile boards their next mode of transportation safely.

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**9.0 SAFETY AND SECURITY OF A JUVENILE IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE:**

- a. Sound Transit expects Fare Enforcement Officers to utilize the utmost care in any dealings with juveniles. Whenever a juvenile is contacted the top priority is their safety and security.

**10.0 REVIEW:**

The Director of Public Safety or Delegate will ensure all Directives, Policies, and Procedures are reviewed at least annually to ensure compliance with Sound Transit Security Division policy. Directives, Policies, and Procedures will be updated immediately if division procedure changes or when a facility adds or deletes post positions or procedures and duties.

**10.0 SUPERSESSION:** First Edition 02/01/2010, Second Edition 03/05/2012, Third Edition 12/23/2013

**11.0 EFFECTIVE DATE:** **06-01-2017**

ISSUING AUTHORITY



Kenneth Cummins  
Director of Public Safety

