

# 12 Model Law Enforcement Policies for Youth Interaction

## Got Policies? .....→ Get Model Policies

Americans assume law enforcement agencies provide officers policies for their interactions with youth, according to a September 2023 poll commissioned by Strategies for Youth. A majority of poll respondents believe law enforcement agencies should provide officers with **specialized policies and training for youth-related issues**, such as responding to youth's mental health crises.

**Contrary to the public's belief and desires, many law enforcement agencies have no policies for interactions with youth.**

SFY addresses this disconnect in its **12 Model Law Enforcement Policies for Youth Interactions**.

These publicly available policies guide agencies and officers in treating youth in a way that is:

- Developmentally appropriate
- Trauma-informed
- Equitable

SFY's policies are the first of their kind. They provide a valuable roadmap for law enforcement leaders, elected officials, communities and municipal/governmental risk managers.

SFY offers technical assistance to agencies and community and youth organizations interested in policy implementation.

Featured recently in the U.S. COPS publication, *The Dispatch*, the policies have also been complimented by the editor of *Juvenile Justice Update* as being **"neither radical nor confrontational. They are grounded in experience, understanding, respect, and common sense. They, or something very much like them, should become a part of the charter of every law enforcement agency in the country."** Spring 2024.



Each **POLICY** provides law enforcement agencies and officers with guidance on how to interact with youth in developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed, equitable ways that comply with the law. Additional source and background information for the policy can be found in the **APPENDIX\***.

- **POLICY 1:** Overview of Youth Interactions Policies
- **POLICY 2:** Investigatory Stops, Non-Custodial Interviews, and Search and Seizure of Youth
- **POLICY 3:** Arrest, Transport, Booking, and Temporary Custody
- **POLICY 4:** Miranda Warnings, Waiver of Rights, and Youth Interrogations
- **POLICY 5:** Use of Force with Youth
- **POLICY 6:** Fair and Impartial Policing of Youth: Race, National Origin, and Immigration Status
- **POLICY 7:** Fair and Impartial Policing: LGBTQ+ Youth
- **POLICY 8:** Policing of Youth with Disabilities, Experiencing Mental Health Crises, or Impaired By Drugs or Alcohol
- **POLICY 9:** Protection of Youth Who Are Vulnerable Due to the Arrest of Parents or Other Caretakers, the Execution of Residential Search Warrants, or Commercial Sexual Exploitation
- **POLICY 10:** Law Enforcement Interactions With Students
- **POLICY 11\*:** Data Collection
- **POLICY 12\*:** Transparency and Accountability

\* All policies have Appendices, except Policy 11 and Policy 12.

