



YOUTH RIGHTS AND REGULATIONS UNDER S.B. 127

In March of 2021 the Utah House of Representatives passed [Senate Bill 127 \(S.B. 127\)](#), which regulates licensed youth facilities including residential treatment centers like New Haven RTC.

S.B. 127 was [signed](#) by Utah Governor Spencer J. Cox in April of 2021.

S.B. 127 PROVISIONS

Youth treatment facilities are now subject to comply with the following

Increased site visits

- State officials will visit New Haven a minimum of 4 times each year. At least two of these visits are unannounced, meaning that New Haven will not receive advanced notice of their arrival.

Facilities must report the use of restraint or seclusion within 24 hours

- If a youth is physically restrained (e.g. put in a hold) or kept alone (e.g. solo shed), New Haven must report it to the State within 24 hours.

Facilities must report critical incidents within 24 hours

- If anyone is put at significant risk of serious mental or physical harm (e.g. abuse, neglect, medical emergency/errors, missing person), New Haven must report it to the State within 24 hours.

Facilities must post abuse hotlines and provide access for youth to file complaints

- New Haven must post hotlines students can call to report abuse (e.g. Utah Child Abuse & Neglect hotline: 1-855-323-3237). Students must be able to call these hotlines and report abuse, regardless of their level.

Facilities are prohibited to use cruel and unusual punishments

- New Haven cannot punish youth in a way that a reasonable person would consider to be too severe, painful, or humiliating.

Facilities are restricted in use of strip and cavity searches

- New Haven cannot make youth take off their clothes while searching them or search inside their body, regardless of their level.

Facilities are prohibited from denying basic human needs such as food, water and the bathroom.

- New Haven must allow youth to eat, drink water, use the bathroom, and fulfill other basic needs, regardless of their level.

Facilities are prohibited from asking youth to restrain other youth

- Students cannot be made to restrain each other (e.g. holds).

Facilities are prohibited from withholding personal interaction

- New Haven cannot ban communication between students (e.g. "com-block").

Facilities are being held accountable to address standards for suicide prevention by requiring additional training for staff

- New Haven must give staff extra suicide prevention training.

Facilities must allow youth to have weekly unmonitored calls with parents

- New Haven must let youth talk to their parents once a week without staff listening in, regardless of their level.

Facilities are prohibited from withholding family interactions as a punishment

- New Haven cannot punish a student by not letting them talk to their family.

Facilities must follow policies to protect all genders and sexes from discrimination, harassment and abuse

- Youth cannot be harassed, abused, or discriminated against because of their gender or sex (including LGBTQ+ students).

--

The information provided within newhavenrtcvoices.org is for general informational purposes only. All information is provided in good faith, however we do not warrant, endorse, guarantee, or assume responsibility for the accuracy or reliability of any information offered including information from third-party posters, testimonials, comments or submissions. Most information posted reflects the opinion of the writer and does not directly reflect the views, or positions of the owners of newhavenrtcvoices.org. Newhavenrtcvoices.org cannot and does not provide medical, mental health, or legal advice. The use or reliance of any information contained on this site is solely at your own risk. We encourage you to consult with the appropriate professionals before taking any further action.