

BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

HANDLING OF RUNAWAYS FROM LIGHTHOUSE FACILITY

Reviewed by: Lt. Timothy Stanesa	Effective Date: October 4, 1990
Authorized by: Asst. Chief Randall McKinley	Revision Date: August 5, 2019

PURPOSE

The purpose of this SOP is to establish a procedure for appropriate reporting when a youth leaves Lighthouse without permission.

PROCEDURE

Lighthouse staff have been asked to give our Department a “courtesy call” from the facility soon after the unauthorized absence has been detected to enable our officers to use the information in locating the youth for the welfare of the youth. In the event a youth leaves the Lighthouse facility in an unauthorized capacity, the staff at Lighthouse will contact the parent/legal guardian of the youth and instruct them to contact the law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction in which the youth last had permanent residence to generate an official police report regarding the incident/runaway. The parent/legal guardian should be instructed to ask their law enforcement agency to contact our Department regarding this runaway so that our Department could offer assistance in locating the youth.

When the parents’/legal guardians’ local law enforcement agency refuses to make a report, the Bloomington Police Supervisor on-duty will contact the agency supervisor to verify that agency’s refusal and the identity of the agency supervisor for inclusion in the BPD report of the incident. A Bloomington Police report will be written in the interest of the missing youth’s safety.

LEADS rules will not allow a runaway to be entered into LEADS if the report was not made in person by the parent/legal guardian of the missing youth. The parent/legal guardian has the option of coming to Bloomington to make a runaway report that can be entered into LEADS.

In the case of the runaway being a ward of the State or a DCFS case, Chestnut/Lighthouse personnel may make a runaway report for entry into LEADS.