

Report Highlights



Highlights of Legislative Auditor report on the Governmental and Private Facilities for Children – Inspections issued on January 16, 2025.

Legislative Auditor Report # LA26-05.

Background

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 218G.570 through 218G.595 authorize the Legislative Auditor to conduct audits of governmental facilities for children and inspections, reviews, and surveys of governmental and private facilities for children.

As of June 30, 2024, we had identified 102 governmental and private facilities that met the requirements of NRS 218G. In addition, 59 Nevada children were placed in 15 different out-of-state facilities across 6 different states as of June 30, 2024.

NRS 218G requires facilities to forward to the Legislative Auditor copies of any complaint filed by a child under their custody or by any other person on behalf of such a child concerning the health, safety, welfare, and civil and other rights of the child. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, we received 2,039 complaints from 45 facilities in Nevada. Fifty-seven Nevada facilities reported that no complaints were filed during this time.

Purpose

Inspections were conducted pursuant to the provisions of NRS 218G.570 through 218G.595. This report includes the results of our inspections of 36 children's facilities. As inspections are not audits, these activities were not conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

The purpose of our inspections was to determine if the facilities adequately protected the health, safety, and welfare of the children in the facilities, and whether the facilities respected the civil and other rights of the children in their care.

Inspections included discussions with management, a review of personnel and child files, and observations. Child and employee interviews occurred as applicable. Discussions with facility management included the following topics: medication administration, treatment plan process, abuse and neglect reporting, complaint process, employee background checks and training, Prison Rape Elimination Act, and related policies and procedures as applicable. In addition, we judgmentally selected files to review which included: personnel files for evidence of employee background checks and required training; and child files for evidence of children's acknowledgment of their right to file a complaint, medication administered, and treatment plans as applicable.

Governmental and Private Facilities for Children – Inspections

December 2024

Summary

In 29 of 36 children's facilities inspected, we did not note significant issues that caused us to question the health, safety, welfare, or protection of the rights of the children. However, at seven facilities we identified multiple issues that caused us to question whether the facilities adequately protected the children in their care. Based on our observations, we contacted the facilities' licensing agencies to communicate our concerns.

Ignite Teen Treatment, LLC

We noted health, safety, welfare, and civil and other rights issues at the Lone Mesa and Romo facilities managed by Ignite Teen Treatment, LLC. Issues by type included:

- **Health:** incomplete, inaccurate, and missing medication records; and missing documentation of medical assistance after noting a child's injury.
- **Safety:** broken windows and glass shards; boarded-up windows preventing emergency egress; restraints resulting in injuries; items posed self-harm risks; unsecured tools, chemicals, and laundry supplies; missing documentation of mandatory reporting; and missing background check records.
- **Welfare:** uncontrolled children's behaviors; hidden nicotine vapes; nine children using one bathroom; untreated pools; an unsecured pool and hot tub; a child climbing on the roof; damage to rooms; and unsecured second-story windows and balcony.
- **Civil and other rights:** weak recordkeeping; missing denial of rights reporting documentation; the complaint process was not posted and management was unable to determine if any complaints were filed; incomplete personnel records; and policies and procedures were weak. (page 5)

Clark County Family Services Advanced Foster Care Homes

We noted health, safety, and civil and other rights issues at four Clark County Family Services advanced foster care homes. Issues by type included:

- **Health:** untimely treatment plans and unsecured records.
- **Safety:** unsecured ammunition; fire escape routes were not posted; missing fire drills; unsecured medications, alcohol, knives, chemicals, and laundry supplies; and inadequate and missing first-aid kits.
- **Civil and other rights:** child rights were not posted; incomplete personnel records; and policies and procedures were weak. (page 12)

Aurora Center for Healing

We noted health, safety, and civil and other rights issues at Aurora Center for Healing. Issues by type included:

- **Health:** incomplete, inaccurate, and missing medication records; incorrectly administered medications; and unavailable medications.
- **Safety:** lack of increased supervision after suicidal ideation; glass shards; items posed self-harm risks; and fire escape routes were not posted.
- **Civil and other rights:** the complaint process was not posted and management discovered complaints missing resolutions filed 18 months prior; incomplete personnel records; and policies and procedures were weak. (page 15)

Other General Concerns

During our inspections, we noted concerns at 18 facilities related to fire safety, 11 facilities related to denial of rights reporting, 7 facilities related to mandatory reporting requirements, and 6 facilities related to fingerprint submission documentation. The frequency of these concerns suggests more attention is needed to improve the care of children in select areas. (page 17)

Areas for Legislative Consideration

This report contains one new and two prior report recommendations the Legislature may want to consider related to enacting legislation. The new recommendation addresses the need for clarification of the complaint reporting process. The prior report recommendations aim to require health facilities to complete certain employee training, and initial and ongoing child abuse and neglect screening for employees. These recommendations would help certain facilities improve the health, safety, welfare, and protection of the rights of the children in their care. (page 21)