POLICY OF STATE OF DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION	POLICY NUMBER 3.38	PAGE NUMBER 1 of 2
	RELATED ACA Standards 2-CO-4B-06	
CHAPTER: 3 Programs & Services	SUBJECT: YOUTHFUL CRIMINAL OFFENDER PROGRAM (YCOP)	
APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER:	7/16/14	
EFFECTIVE DATE:		
APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE		

I. AUTHORITY: 10 *Del. C.* §901, §1010; 11 *Del C.* § 2103A, §4204A; §6517, 29 *Del. C.* § 8903,

II. PURPOSE: To establish guidelines for the programming and housing of youthful offenders within the Bureau of Prisons system of the Delaware Department of Correction (DDOC).

III. APPLICABILITY: All DDOC employees, volunteers, persons and organizations conducting business with the Department and all offenders under the custody and supervision of the Department.

IV. DEFINITIONS:

A. **Youthful Criminal Offender** - Any individual remanded to the Department of Correction that has been determined non-amenable to the rehabilitative processes of the Family Court or sentenced to the adult system for serious offenses that is between the ages of 16 and 18 years old.

B. **Adult Offender** – Any individual remanded to the Department of Correction that has reached his or her 18th birthday.

IV. POLICY: It is the policy of the DDOC that youthful criminal offenders be placed in a designated program and housed in a unit that they will not have sight, sound, or physical contact with any adult offender through the use of a shared dayroom or other common space, shower area, or sleeping quarters. The program and treatment services provided shall be consistent with rehabilitative and special needs of the offender, the security concerns of the DDOC and the safety of the public. The facility where these offenders are housed will develop procedures to ensure appropriate treatment and educational services are provided.

A. Youthful Criminal Offenders will not be subject to the assessment and classification procedures until they have reached their 18th birthday.

B. In areas outside of their designated housing units, the responsible facility will either maintain sight and sound separation between youthful offenders and adult offenders, or provide direct staff supervision when they have sight, sound, or physical contact.

C. Youthful Criminal Offenders are entitled to certain basic rights consistent with those of adult offenders including, but not limited to:

- A safe and healthful living environment
- Access to reasonable health care
- Due process for alleged rule violations
- Freedom of speech and religion
- Reasonable access to the courts
- Access to the grievance process

D. Except and to the extend general or offender-specific restrictions apply, Youthful Criminal Offenders shall have reasonable access to similar privileges of adult offenders including, but not limited to:

- Visitation
- Commissary
- Mail
- Telephone
- Recreation
- Laundry

E. Youthful Criminal Offender Program shall include structured programming in areas such as substance abuse, anger management, and alternatives to violence.

F. Education shall be mandatory for all Youthful Criminal Offenders without a high school diploma or General Equivalency Diploma.

G. The Bureau Chief of Prisons and the Bureau Chief of Community Corrections will be responsible to designate specific facilities to house this population and routinely evaluate and monitor compliance with this policy.