

Module 3



How to Support Child-sensitive Apprehension, Arrest and Detention

Assessment



Distribute the assessment for Module 3 to participants and give them 15 minutes to answer the questions. Then distribute the answer sheet and ask participants to work in pairs and correct each other's answers.

Note that the questions relate not only to the content of the module, but also to the knowledge and skills that should have been part of previous training.

- 1) A 14-year-old boy is arrested and the identity papers that he shows are not regular. Some information is not visible because the documents are covered with dirt. Should the boy be detained?
 - a. No, detention should be used only as a last resort, the safety of the boy and others is not endangered, and there are alternatives to depriving him of his liberty.
 - b. Yes, the police should detain the boy for as long as necessary to teach him a lesson so that he takes better care of his identity papers.
 - c. Yes, but for the shortest time possible in order to double-check his identity.
 - d. Yes, the police should detain him until an adult comes to take care of him.

- 2) A 15-year-old girl is accused of a minor offence: she did not respect the curfew in force in her village. This is her first offence. How can the police adequately apply diversion in such a case?
 - a. Establish the initial contact with the child, coordinate with colleagues in the social and judicial system to encourage a proportionate redress in her community to encourage her not to do it again.
 - b. Allow the girl return home without documenting the case.
 - c. Send the girl to another village where no curfew is applied.
 - d. Detain the girl, wait for the prosecutor to decide, and inform a social worker about the case.

- 3) Upon returning to work on Monday morning, a police officer notices that a 13-year-old girl has been detained with other female detainees since last Friday night. A colleague who was on duty the entire weekend reports that the police are waiting for directions from the prosecutor on her case. She is accused of a major crime. The age of criminal responsibility in the country is 14 years. Which statement is most adequate in this case?
- a. A girl who is 13 years old in this country cannot be considered criminally responsible and should never have been detained.
 - b. Diversion should be strongly encouraged and, over the next few days, the police should coordinate other actors to encourage diversion measures, while preparing for her release.
 - c. Girls should always be kept in separate detention facilities from adults, ideally together with their mother or caregiver.
 - d. Monetary bail should have been suggested to the girl and her family to avoid detention over the weekend and ensure she would return on Monday morning to continue judicial proceedings.
- 4) Which of the following statements is NOT a way to prevent juvenile delinquency?
- a. Promoting the active role of youth in society.
 - b. Placing priority on diversion measures.
 - c. Enforcing harsh punishments so young offenders do not recommit crimes.
 - d. Involving traditional and religious actors in prevention strategies as part of a community policing approach.
- 5) It is sometimes justified to place a child in detention as a last resort if:
- a. Detention provides the basic necessities such as food and water for the child in need.
 - b. The child presents a danger for society.
 - c. Detention serves as a deterrent so that other children do not engage in crimes.
 - d. If the crime is a case of recidivism.

- 6) A judge is asked to rule on the case of a 16-year-old boy who has been found guilty of supporting a terrorist group. In consideration of the best interests of the child, what should the justice system do?
- Sentence the boy to a long sentence to discourage other adolescents from doing the same thing.
 - Consider the opinion and experience of the child and his family, examine all evidence, seek the collaboration of other social actors, and analyse the impact of each sentencing option on the child, to finally make a decision that considers what is best for the child.
 - Because he is a child, diversion measures should be applied, and he should be sent home and asked to help a community group for a few days to teach him a lesson.
 - Ask the child what he/she wants and apply that opinion as the final decision.
- 7) A police officer has been mandated by the Chief of Police to conduct an operation in the home of a suspected drug trafficker. When the police officer arrives on site, the man readily surrenders and is arrested. The police officer notices that there is a girl with the man. Her identity papers attest that she is his daughter and that she is 13-years old. What should the police officer do?
- Arrest the girl as well, as she is also likely involved in drug-related crime. The police officer can interview her at the station and investigate if she is or not.
 - The police officer is not a social worker, he must execute orders and it is not his mandate to take care of children. Therefore, he should leave the girl in the house as she is 13 years old and should be able to take care of herself.
 - Apprehend the child, detain her separately from adults, investigate the case and wait for further instructions from the Chief.
 - Arrest the father, establish an initial contact with the girl, briefly explain what is happening, ask if she has relatives nearby and ensure that she connects with them, contact social services and wait for a social worker to arrive. The police officer reports the situation of the girl and the action taken following the man's arrest.

- 8) When arresting a child, a police officer should:
- a. Inform the child about his/her rights and explain what crime the child is guilty of.
 - b. Assess the age of the child and, if in doubt, deal with the child as an adult.
 - c. Not proceed with the arrest. No children should ever be arrested, as it is not in their best interests.
 - d. Apply the principle of proportionality, to limit and guide the use of force and instruments of restraint while apprehending or arresting children.