



What You Need To Know About Raise-the-Age (RTA)



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| Summary | <p>On April 10, 2017 Governor Andrew Cuomo signed Raise-the-Age (RTA) legislation into law, which increases the age of criminal responsibility to 18 years of age. As a result, effective October 1, 2018, newly arrested 16-year-olds will no longer be prosecuted as adults or held in adult facilities; the same will be true for newly arrested 17-year-olds beginning October 1, 2019. Unlike any other jurisdiction in the state, New York City has the additional requirement to transition all currently adult-charged 16- and 17-year-olds from its adult detention facility on Rikers Island. By October 1st of this year, these young people must be housed in a non-Rikers facility to be jointly administered by ACS and the Department of Correction (DOC).</p> <p>To prepare for this historic transition, New York City is providing all young people, between the ages of 16 and 17 years of age currently in DOC custody and their families/friends/caretakers with key information regarding the changes created under the Raise-the-Age legislation</p> <p>This guide seeks to provide information about next steps for young people currently housed at the Robert N. Davoren Center (RNDC) and Rose M. Singer Center (RMSC) on Rikers Island.</p> |
| What You Need To Know | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Young people, 16 and 17 years of age and currently in DOC custody are required to be moved off Rikers Island by October 1st, 2018. The new RTA legislation prohibits 16 and 17-year-olds from being detained on Rikers Island.• Young people leaving Rikers Island will go to Horizon Juvenile Center, located at 560 Brook Avenue, Bronx, NY, 10455.• Young people between the ages of 16 and 17 years old who are detained will be placed in the joint care of both the NYC Department of Correction (DOC) and the NYC Administration for Children’s Services (ACS). Together, DOC and ACS have developed a plan to create a safe environment that supports positive youth development in the absence of an adult population.• When a young person reaches their 18th birthday while at Horizon Juvenile Center, they will be returned to a DOC facility. <p>General Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Housing – Your child will be housed on a “hall” - otherwise known as a housing unit – that has either 8 or 15 individual bedrooms in it. Your child will have their own bedroom with a lock on the door. The facility will also contain a Transitional Restorative Unit (TRU) and Second Chance Housing Unit (SC) Hall.• Court – Your child’s case will continue to be heard in the same court in which their cases were already being heard. Your child will continue to receive the same legal representation, and the legal status of their cases will not change upon transfer to Horizon.• Commissary – Commissary items will no longer be available for purchase as your child will earn privileges to commissary items through positive behavior and program engagement. Your child will be able to earn credit to be used at |



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commissary, keeping in line with ACS Juvenile Detention policy, and will not have to purchase hygiene items and haircuts at Horizon – your child will receive these items as needed. Your child will only be allowed to bring their personal hygiene items and radios purchased through commissary with them to Horizon.

- **Property** – Only clothing (used for court), personal hygiene items and radios purchased through commissary by your child will be transferred to with them to Horizon Juvenile Center.
- **DOC Account** – This account, used to pay for haircuts, commissary (personal hygiene items, snacks), etc., will not exist at Horizon Juvenile Center. All monies will be returned to your child. Haircuts and personal hygiene items will be provided to your child free of charge.
- **Educational Services** – Your child is mandated to participate in educational services provided by the NYC Department of Education’s District 79 Passages Academy. This is a program that includes access to middle school classes, high school classes and HSE prep.
- **Health Care (including prescription medications)** – Your child will continue to receive health care, including mental health and dental services, at Horizon Juvenile Center. NYC Health + Hospitals/Correctional Health Services is working with ACS to ensure your child receive the health care they need. Health records will stay confidential and be transferred to the new facility.
- **Programming and Services** – Your child will generally have the opportunity to participate in the same type of programming and services offered on Rikers as well other activities grounded in the principles of youth development. Your child will be offered age-appropriate services that are designed to promote rehabilitation, behavior change, and successful reentry into the community. Services include law library and religious services. Programs include recreation, skill building, and vocational programs that result in certification or other credentialing such as health services, computer applications and technology, cosmetology and barbering, construction and building maintenance, culinary arts, music, and performance arts.
- **Reentry Services** – Reentry services will continue through a partnership with Friends of Island Academy’s Youth Reentry Network, who will provide youth-focused discharge planning services. ACS Case Managers will contact you once your child has been transferred to Horizon and will provide contact information for the reentry services provider. Reentry services will be provided at Horizon and post-release, and include family outreach and service coordination, case expediting



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through connection to bail and other existing alternatives, post-release referral and mentoring supports, and neighborhood-based advocacy.

- Telephone Services** – Your child will be provided 7 minutes of phone time daily. All additional minutes will be earned through ACS’ behavior management program. ACS Case Management staff will establish a list of authorized individuals that your child is permitted to contact. The authorized list will be shared with your child. Efforts will be made to contact you to develop the authorized phone contact list. If you, as the parent or guardian, are not responsive, ACS Case Management staff will obtain a list of potential authorized individuals (from your child) that he or she is permitted to contact, contact those individuals, and carefully exam them before placing them on the authorized phone contact list.
- Visits** – ACS will work with your child and you to develop an approved visitor list. This approved list will include all individuals who will be permitted to visit your child in custody. The proposed visit schedule is as follows:

| Day | Last Name of youth begins with: | Visiting Time: |
|-----------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Monday | A-M | 4:40pm – 6:40pm |
| | N-Z | 6:45pm – 8:45pm |
| Tuesday | N-Z | 4:40pm – 6:40pm |
| | A-M | 6:45pm – 8:45pm |
| Wednesday | A-M | 4:40pm – 6:40pm |
| | N-Z | 6:45pm – 8:45pm |
| Saturday | A-M | 9:30am – 12:30pm |
| | N-Z | 1:30pm – 4:45pm |
| Sunday | N-Z | 9:30am – 12:30pm |
| | A-M | 1:30pm – 4:45pm |

Information for Families/Caretakers/Friends

- All youth transitioning from Rikers Island will be placed in the joint care of ACS and DOC.
- For general questions regarding Raise-the-Age (RTA) at Horizon including the transfer of your child from Rikers to Horizon Juvenile Center, call 718-533-4699. Callers to this number will hear the following message:

“Hello, you have reached Horizon Juvenile Detention Center.

Please leave your name, contact information and a brief message of your inquiry and someone will get back to you.”



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You can also email at HorizonQuestions@doc.nyc.gov

*Messages will be recorded and automatically forwarded to the above E-mail address/recipients.

- Also located on DOC's website is our Information Toolkit for Family Members. This toolkit provides comprehensive information about services your loved one can access upon his/her return to the community.
- To obtain more information on the specifics of this new law, please visit the following website: raisetheagency.com