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STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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**2008 No. 427**

**Juvenile Justice Centre Rules (Northern Ireland) 2008**

**PART 7**

**SECURITY AND SAFETY**

**Physical restraint**

**51.**—(1) Physical restraint shall only be used as a last resort in order to prevent:—

- (a) injury;
- (b) escape;
- (c) serious damage to property;
- (d) serious disorder;
- (e) incitement of another child to any of the above;

and then only when all other reasonable efforts to defuse and de-escalate the situation have been unsuccessful or no alternative method of preventing the incidents specified in any of paragraphs (a) to (e) is available.

(2) Only methods approved by the Secretary of State shall be used and only by a member of staff who has undergone a course of training approved by the Secretary of State.

(3) Physical restraint shall not be used as a punishment and where it is used it shall be for the shortest time possible and the child and, as far as practicable, the parent of the child, shall be informed of the reasons for such action.

(4) On each occasion that a child is physically restrained a report of the circumstances shall be made to the director without delay and a written record completed.

(5) The child shall be informed of the content of the written record referred to in paragraph (4) and encouraged to contribute to it.

(6) A healthcare officer shall be informed of any incidents of physical restraint to enable him to fulfil his duties under rule 28(5).

(7) The director shall regularly review the use of physical restraint in a centre to ensure that its use is appropriate and proportionate and in accordance with these rules.