Orthodontics is not offered as a dental treatment option by the Department of Juvenile Justice; however, we will make every effort to ensure that your son or daughter’s ongoing orthodontic treatment is continued throughout their detention. We will provide routine dental care and treatment, including emergency orthodontic care at the YDC/RYDC dental clinic.

- If orthodontic care is to be continued throughout the youth’s stay at the YDC/RYDC, we will provide transportation to an orthodontist office for routine appointments.

- If orthodontic treatment is completed during the youth’s stay at the YDC/RYDC, the youth will be permitted to keep all acrylic orthodontic retainers in the housing unit when not being worn.

- If treatment is to be discontinued at the YDC/RYDC, the Department will ensure proper removal of bands, brackets, and wires. An acrylic orthodontic retainer will be provided.

**CONTINUATION OF ORTHODONTIC CARE:**

1. Transporting youth to orthodontic appointments depends on the proximity of the YDC/RYDC to the youth’s private orthodontist and on the availability of transportation officers.
   - The Department will not transport youth to an out of state orthodontist office.
   - Parents/guardians cannot transport their children from YDCs or RYDCs to orthodontic appointments.
   - Parents/guardians will be contacted by the facility dentist during the youth’s exam appointment.
   - After consulting with the parents/guardians, the youth’s orthodontist will be contacted by the facility’s dentist for an assessment and evaluation of treatment options.

2. Payment for orthodontic care is the sole responsibility of the youth’s parents/guardians. The Department assumes no responsibility to pay for orthodontic treatment or for any oral surgery or periodontal surgery associated with orthodontic treatment.

3. Parents/guardians should understand that youth will be transported to orthodontic appointments wearing their YDC/RYDC uniform. They will wear ankle and wrist restraints during transportation and throughout the orthodontic appointment.

**DISCONTINUATION OF ORTHODONTIC CARE:**

When discontinuing orthodontic treatment, bands, brackets and wires should be removed and a retainer should be used until orthodontic treatment can resume. Parents/guardians will be asked to sign a consent form before the removal of braces.

*The Department promotes total health and well-being for all youth. Youth and parents/guardians should fully understand that leaving bands and brackets on teeth for prolonged periods of time, without ongoing orthodontic care, may result in the development of caries (cavities).*

In the event that removal of braces is recommended and parents/guardians refuse to sign the consent; the Department will not be held responsible for the condition of the underlying teeth.

**Reasons to Discontinue Orthodontic Care:**

1. Youth who have not maintained regularly scheduled visits to their orthodontist for 6 months prior to their detention will not be permitted to restart orthodontic care after being sent to the YDC or RYDC.

2. In the event that the youth’s orthodontist is out of state, and the facility’s dentist or the parents/guardians are unable to secure an orthodontist that will accept their case; treatment will be suspended until the youth is released. Braces will be removed with the consent of the parents/guardians and acrylic retainers will be provided.

3. Disruptive behaviors at the orthodontist or during transportation will result in the suspension of orthodontic treatment. Braces will be removed with parent/guardian consent and the youth will be placed in acrylic retainers.

4. Treatment may have to be suspended until the youth is released if orthodontic services are not available within 100 miles of the YDC/RYDC. Braces will be removed with parent/guardian consent and acrylic retainers will be provided.

5. Purposeful, documented noncompliance to recommended orthodontic care which results in prolonged treatment and increased numbers of orthodontic appointments will not be tolerated. With parent/guardian consent, bands, brackets and wires will be removed by the facility’s dentist and an acrylic retainer will be provided.