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Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 1:36 PM
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Subject: Training Limitations

Chief Juvenile Probation Officers

On May 26, 2020, in response to the then rapidly-emerging COVID-19 pandemic, I issued an email notice announcing relief from certain Title 37 TAC Chapter 344 requirements relating to the certification requirements for juvenile probation officers, juvenile supervision officers, and community activity officers. The Texas Juvenile Justice Department has determined that the ongoing pandemic/labor shortage and its continuing impact on juvenile probation departments' abilities to secure specified training for their professional staff has necessitated additional accommodations to related officer certification requirements within 37 TAC Chapter 344.

Therefore, in accordance with Section 349.200(a), Title 37, Texas Administrative Code (TAC), juvenile probation departments and the registered secure and non-secure facilities operating under the authority of local juvenile boards (Recipients) are being granted further relief, as set out below, with the conditions/limitations noted. These accommodations were in effect until December 31, 2022, and will now be effective through **May 31, 2023**.

§344.670 Training Methods and Limitations (Effective Date: 02/01/2018)

(b) Limitations on Training Methods.

The hour limitations in this section apply to training received within a certification period.

(1) Video or Web-Based Training for Juvenile Probation Officers and Juvenile Supervision Officers.

For juvenile probation officers and juvenile supervision officers, a maximum of 40 hours of any combination of the following types of training may be eligible for credit:

- (A) interactive, web-based training, such as live webinars;
- (B) video conferencing; and
- (C) pre-recorded training, which may account for no more than 20 hours of the total.

(2) Video or Web-Based Training for Community Activities Officers.

For community activities officers, a maximum of 20 hours of any combination of the following types of training may be eligible for credit:

- (A) interactive, web-based training, such as live webinars;
- (B) video conferencing; and
- (C) pre-recorded training, which may account for no more than 10 hours of the total.

Conditions and Limitations

This is contingent upon the following condition:

- 1) The 20- and 10-hour limitations on pre-recorded training hours will remain in effect; however, neither pre-recorded training webinars provided by TJJD nor pre-recorded presentations attached to the 2022 Juvenile Law Conference will count toward these hour limitations.

Special Instructions

In order for your application to come through with more than 40 hours of live, interactive web-based trainings, when creating the training event please do the following: choose the "Instructor Led/Classroom" as the "*Instruction Type," and in the description include the wording "Live web-based 40+ hours due to Covid19" with your description.

Summary of Relief Provided To-Date

Taken together, the previous order and extensions and the relief provided in this authorization letter mean that there is no limit on the training hours that may be acquired through interactive, web-based training or videoconferencing, including through the use of software applications such as TEAMS, Zoom, or GoToMeeting, or on training hours acquired by watching a pre-recorded web-based training presented by TJJD or attached to the 2021 or 2022 Juvenile Law Conference.

TJJD is currently in the process of making these changes permanent but this will have to go for final approval in front of the board. Our goal is to have these completed prior to May 31,2023.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns relating to this announcement.

Chris Ellison
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Texas Juvenile Justice Department
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