

Chapter: Agency Supports and Controls
Rule: Public Information Program

Effective Date: 8/28/98, T-43

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ACA Standard(s): 3-JTS-1A-25, 1A-27, 1A-27-1

Policy.

- (a) The Texas Youth Commission (TYC) recognizes its responsibility to keep citizens of Texas informed of its activities. The public information office administers a program that encourages appropriate public and media access to institutions, programs, and information in hopes of increasing public understanding about juvenile crime and rehabilitation.
 - (b) Information is made available through:
 - (1) news releases, consultation, and interviews with media, annual reports, educational videotapes, and an interactive internet web site;
 - (2) articles for publication in government, criminal justice organizations and other professional journals;
 - (3) consultation on juvenile justice issues;
 - (4) program issues communicated directly to judges, legislators, and criminal justice professionals;
 - (5) public tours of correctional facilities and programs; and
 - (6) presentations by staff and by TYC youth to school, community, and professional groups.
 - (c) Public and media access to all areas shall be allowed consistent with preserving juveniles' rights to privacy, ensuring minimal disruption to rehabilitation efforts, and maintaining order and security.
 - (d) Public and media access to all areas will not be allowed during a major disturbance or emergency in the interest of regaining order and providing for staff, youth, and the public safety. Periodic updates or news releases will be provided until control has been established.
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