

Chapter: Agency Management and Operations Subchapter: Interaction with the Public Rule: Media Access ACA: 4-JCF-3A-15	Effective Date: 10/1/16 Page: 1 of 1 Replaces: GAP.385.8137, 2/25/03
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RULE

(a) **Purpose.**

This rule allows for communication between a Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) youth and the media subject to rules established by TJJD in the interest of order and safety and within limitations of confidentiality rules.

(b) **General Provisions.**

- (1) The news media are granted access to TJJD facilities, as is any visitor, consistent with the preservation of a youth's privacy and the maintenance of order and security in the facility. TJJD supports media contact that serves the interest of public awareness and encourages the youth to contribute productively to the community.
- (2) Release of records or divulgence of information that identifies individual youth or that is otherwise confidential by law is strictly prohibited.
- (3) Parental consent is not required for general news media visits that do not involve any interviewing of youth.
- (4) Non-TJJD personnel are not permitted to make audio or visual recordings of any treatment session(s) addressing personal or confidential information.
- (5) When the news media requests to interview or to film youth, the facility administrator must consult with TJJD's communications director to review the purpose and to determine parameters for filming and/or interviews.
- (6) When the news media requests an interview or to film specific youth, the facility administrator, in consultation with the TJJD communications director or designee, makes a recommendation to the youth, and to the youth's parent or guardian if the youth is under 18 years of age, regarding the advisability of the youth granting the request. When the recommendation is against allowing an interview or filming, the request is denied by the administrator unless the youth, and the youth's parent or guardian if the youth is under 18 years of age, signs a written statement acknowledging the recommendation and electing to go forward with the interview or filming despite the recommendation. If the youth is under 18 years of age, the wishes of the youth's parent or guardian are honored. If the youth is 18 years of age or older, the wishes of the youth are honored.
- (7) Prior to each interview or filming:
 - (A) the TJJD publicity release form must be explained to the youth and to the youth's parent or guardian if the youth is under 18 years of age;
 - (B) the youth must indicate on the publicity release form whether he/she wants his/her primary therapist or designee to be present during the interview or filming;
 - (C) the youth, and parent or guardian if the youth is under 18 years of age, must sign the publicity release form; and
 - (D) the youth must be informed that:
 - (i) the interview is voluntary;
 - (ii) he/she may refuse to answer any questions during the interview; and
 - (iii) he/she may stop the interview at any time.