

# Texas Administrative Code

Title 37 Public Safety and Corrections  
Part 11 Texas Juvenile Justice Department  
**Chapter 345 Juvenile Justice Professional Code of Ethics for Certified Officers**

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## Subchapter A Definitions and Applicability

### §345.100 Definitions

Effective Date: 7/15/14

The following terms, as used in this chapter, have the following meanings unless otherwise expressly defined within the chapter.

- (1) Juvenile--A person who is under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, confined in a juvenile justice facility, or participating in a juvenile justice program.
- (2) Juvenile Justice Facility ("facility")--
  - (A) A facility, including the facility's premises and all affiliated sites whether contiguous or detached, that:
    - (i) serves juveniles under juvenile court jurisdiction; and
    - (ii) is operated:
      - (I) wholly or partly by or under the authority of the governing board or juvenile board; or
      - (II) by a private vendor under a contract with the governing board, juvenile board, or governmental unit.
  - (B) The term includes, but is not limited to:
    - (i) public or private juvenile pre-adjudication secure detention facilities, as defined in §344.100 of this title, including short-term detention facilities (i.e., holdovers) as defined in §351.1 of this title;
    - (ii) public or private juvenile post-adjudication secure correctional facilities as defined in §344.100 of this title; and
    - (iii) public or private non-secure correctional facilities as defined in §355.100 of this title.
- (3) Juvenile Justice Professional--A person who is:
  - (A) certified by TJJD as a juvenile probation officer, youth activities supervisor, or juvenile supervision officer; or
  - (B) employed by a juvenile probation department, juvenile justice program, or a juvenile justice facility as a juvenile probation officer, youth activities supervisor, or juvenile supervision officer.
- (4) Juvenile Justice Program ("program")--Has the meaning assigned by §344.100 of this title.
- (5) Juvenile Probation Department ("department")--Has the meaning assigned by §344.100 of this title.
- (6) TJJD--The Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

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### §345.110 Applicability

Effective Date: 7/15/14

- (a) Unless otherwise noted, this code of ethics applies to all juvenile justice professionals.
- (b) The code of ethics is intended to ensure that juvenile justice professionals adhere to the level of professionalism required by TJJD as the licensing agency issuing the certification.

## Subchapter B Policy and Procedure

### §345.200 Policy and Procedure

Effective Date: 7/15/14

Juvenile probation departments, juvenile justice programs, and juvenile justice facilities must adopt and implement written policies and procedures to ensure that all code of ethics violations are reported to:

- (1) the administration of the juvenile probation department, juvenile justice program, or juvenile justice facility; and
- (2) TJJD.

## Subchapter C Code of Ethics

### §345.300 Adherence and Reporting Violations

Effective Date: 7/15/14

- (a) To ensure the safety, protection, and welfare of the juveniles and families served by the juvenile justice system, juvenile justice professionals must adhere to the code of ethics set forth in this chapter.
- (b) Juvenile justice professionals must report to the appropriate authorities and/or entities any unethical behavior or violations of the code of ethics.

### §345.310 Code of Ethics

Effective Date: 7/15/14

- (a) The people of Texas expect juvenile justice professionals to exhibit honesty and respect for the dignity and individuality of human beings and display a commitment to professional and compassionate service.
- (b) As described by §344.810 and §349.307 of this title, TJJD may take disciplinary action against the certification or deny certification of a juvenile justice professional who is found by TJJD to have violated the code of ethics.
- (c) Juvenile justice professionals must adhere to the following code of ethics principles:
  - (1) Juvenile justice professionals must:
    - (A) abide by all federal laws, federal guidelines and rules, state laws, and TJJD administrative rules;
    - (B) respect the authority and follow the directives of the juvenile court and governing juvenile board;
    - (C) respect and protect the legal rights of all juveniles and their parents and/or guardians;
    - (D) serve each child with concern for the child's welfare and with no expectation of personal gain;
    - (E) respect the significance of all elements of the justice and human services systems and cultivate professional cooperation with each segment;

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- (F) respect and consider the right of the public to be safeguarded from the effects of juvenile delinquency;
  - (G) be diligent in their responsibility to record and make available for review any and all information that could contribute to sound decisions affecting a child or public safety;
  - (H) report without reservation any corrupt or unethical behavior that could affect a juvenile or the integrity of the juvenile justice system;
  - (I) maintain the integrity and confidentiality of juvenile information, not seek more information than needed to perform their duties, and not reveal information to any person who does not have authorized access to the information for a proper, professional use; and
  - (J) treat all juveniles and their families with courtesy, consideration, and dignity.
- (2) Juvenile justice professionals must not:
- (A) use their official position to secure privileges or advantages;
  - (B) permit personal interest to impair the impartial and objective exercise of professional responsibilities;
  - (C) accept gifts, favors, or other advantages that could give the appearance of impropriety or impair the impartial and objective exercise of professional responsibilities;
  - (D) maintain or give the appearance of maintaining an inappropriate relationship with a juvenile, including, but not limited to, bribery or solicitation or acceptance of gifts, favors, or services from juveniles or their families;
  - (E) discriminate against any employee, juvenile, parent, or guardian on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, disability, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, political belief, or socioeconomic status;
  - (F) misuse government property or resources or use personal property or funds belonging to a juvenile;
  - (G) be designated as a perpetrator in an abuse, exploitation, and neglect investigation conducted by TJJJ under Chapter 350 of this title and Texas Family Code Chapter 261;
  - (H) interfere with or hinder any abuse, exploitation, and neglect investigation, including a criminal investigation conducted by law enforcement or an investigation conducted under Chapter 350 and Chapter 358 of this title or Texas Family Code Chapter 261;
  - (I) deliver into or remove from the grounds of a juvenile facility, program, or department any item of contraband or possess or control any item of contraband beyond the time period required to immediately report and deliver the item to the proper authority within the facility, program, or department;
  - (J) use violence or unnecessary force and must use only the amount and type of force reasonably necessary and appropriate when justified to ensure the security of juveniles or of the facility, program, or department; or
  - (K) falsify or make material omissions to governmental records.