

Chapter: Agency Supports and Controls	Effective Date: 7/1/24
Rule: Media Access	Page: 1 of 1
	Replaces: GAP.385.8137, 10/1/16

(a) **Purpose.**

This policy creates a process 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.
 - (2) Release of records or divulgence of information that identifies individual youth or that is otherwise confidential by law is strictly prohibited. This applies regardless of the age of the youth and whether the youth has been discharged from TJJD.
 - (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, provides a copy of the [Confidentiality Notification for Participation in Media or Publicity Project, LS-008](#), to the youth, and to the youth's parent or guardian if the youth is under 18 years of age. TJJD does not advise the youth regarding whether the youth should participate in the project.
 - (7) If the youth wishes to participate in an interview or filming, any agreements are between the youth, and the youth's parent or guardian, if the youth is under 18 years of age, and the news media. TJJD is not a part of any such agreement.
 - (8) Prior to each interview or filming, the youth must be informed that:
 - (i) the youth's participation in the interview or filming is voluntary;
 - (ii) the youth may refuse to answer any questions during the interview; and
 - (iii) the youth may stop the interview or choose not to be filmed at any time.
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