

# 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: 9/1/25

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, including a prevention and intervention program, regardless of age.
- (2) **Juvenile Justice Facility ("facility")**--A facility that is registered by TJJD pursuant to [Sections 51.12, 51.125, or 51.126, Family Code](#).
- (3) **Juvenile Justice Professional**--A person who is:
  - (A) certified by TJJD as a juvenile probation officer, community activities officer, or juvenile supervision officer; or
  - (B) employed by, contracting with, or volunteering with a department, program, or facility or a non-juvenile justice contract facility.
- (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) **Non-Juvenile Justice Contract Facility**--A facility in which a juvenile is placed pursuant to a contract with a department, program, facility, or juvenile board, other than a facility registered with TJJD.
- (7) **TJJD**--The Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

### **§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.

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### Subchapter B Policy and Procedure

#### §345.200 Policy and Procedure

Effective Date: 9/1/25

Department, programs, and 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 department, program, or facility; and
- (2) TJJD.

### Subchapter C Code of Ethics

#### §345.300 Adherence and Reporting Violations

Effective Date: 9/1/25

- (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 any unethical behavior or violations of the code of ethics to TJJD and the administration of the department, program, facility, or non-juvenile justice contract facility where the juvenile justice professional is an employee, volunteer, or contractor.

#### §345.310 Code of Ethics

Effective Date: 9/1/25

- (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) In accordance with [Chapter 349 of this title](#), TJJD may take disciplinary action against a certification of or deny a certification to 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;
    - (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;

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- (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) engage in conduct constituting abuse, neglect, or exploitation as provided by [Chapter 358 of this title](#) and [Chapter 261, Family Code](#);
  - (H) interfere with or hinder any investigation, including a criminal investigation conducted by law enforcement or an investigation conducted under Chapter 350 and Chapter 358 of this title or [Chapter 261, Family Code](#);
  - (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.