Chapter:	Rules for State-Operated Programs and Facilities	**Effective Date: 11/1/26**
Subchapter:	Behavior Management and Youth Discipline	Page: 1 of 2
Division:	Behavior Management	
Rule:	**Egregious Behavior Protocol**	New

RULE

(a) **Purpose.**

The Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) addresses disruptive or unsafe youth behavior by using appropriate levels of intervention, including the egregious behavior protocol.

(b) **Applicability.**

(1) This rule applies to high-restriction facilities.

(2) This rule does not supersede requirements established by other policies and procedures regarding self-harming or suicidal behavior and ideation.

(c) **General Provisions.**

(1) Placing a youth out-of-program, as described in this procedure, is used to maintain safety and is not considered a disciplinary consequence.

(2) Being out-of-program includes the following stipulations:

(A) The youth programs individually during group activities on the dorm, generally in an assigned seat. Time is spent working on treatment assignments (e.g., completing Behavior Chain Analysis, practicing skills, working on correction), often with staff assistance.

(B) The youth cannot approach other youth or leave the assigned seat without staff permission.

(C) Other youth cannot approach the out-of-program youth without staff permission.

(D) Recreation is individual, if staffing permits.

(E) Stage privileges do not apply.

(F) Direct-care staff:

(i) assign treatment work, including Behavior Chain Analysis;
(ii) assist the youth with practicing skills to use the next time a similar situation occurs; and
(iii) document the youth's progress, focusing on a behavioral description of the youth's level of engagement and motivation to complete treatment work.

(d) **Placing Youth Out-of-Program – Egregious Behavior Protocol.**

(1) A direct-care staff member may place the youth on the Egregious Behavior Protocol and the youth is considered out-of-program when: a youth fails to respond positively to redirection from staff, maladaptive behavior escalates, and/or the youth engages in behavior that creates an immediate danger to safety or security or that prevents others from receiving programming.

(2) The staff member:

(A) tells the youth that the youth is out-of-program;

(B) explains the requirements associated with being out-of-program and expectations to return to programming;

(C) gives the youth an opportunity to address the maladaptive behavior and use skillful behavior, including the completion of a Behavior Chain Analysis; and

(D) documents a summary of the incident and engagement strategies.

(e) **Additional Safety-Based Measures.**

Additional safety-based measures may include, but are not limited to:

(1) assigning color-coded clothing to indicate a high risk for unsafe behavior or aggression;
(2) placing the youth on a behavior plan or safety plan; or
(3) referral to a program in the Intervention Program.

(f) **Returning Youth to Regular Programming.**

(1) Removing the youth from out-of-program status is based on the youth completing all treatment assignments and verbally committing to safe behavior and/or using skills to avoid disruptive behavior. Other factors, such as the youth's level of commitment to work on target behaviors and to make progress in treatment, are considered.

(2) Designated staff members:

(A) review documentation of the youth's behavior;
(B) decide when to remove the youth from out-of-program status; and
(C) document the youth's return to regular programming.