



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY

Secretary /s/, Frank Peterman, Jr.

Date: 2/6/09

Subject: Rights of Youths in DJJ Care, Custody or Supervision

Section: FDJJ – 1100

Originating Office: General Counsel

Authority: Sections 985.01(1) and 985.02(1), Florida Statutes

Related References: Rule 63E-7.006, F.A.C. [Revised to be 63E-7.102]
Rule 63G-2.021 and .022, F.A.C.

Purpose: This policy articulates the minimum, generally applicable standard of individual rights prescribed by law for youths in all Department program areas. Nothing herein shall be construed to limit rights granted under the laws of the State of Florida or the United States.

Offices Affected by the Policy: All offices, programs and facilities having direct care or supervision of Department youths.

POLICY STATEMENT:

- Employed or contracted staff will treat youths with the courtesy and dignity inherently due every person. Staff will act, speak, and conduct themselves in a professional manner, recognizing their obligation to maintain public safety, and maintain a courteous, professional attitude in all contacts with the public. Profanity should never be used while on duty.
- Employed or contracted staff will not exhibit or exercise any bias or prejudice against an individual or group because of race, color, gender, age, religion, disability, national origin, ancestry, or sexual orientation.
- Employed or contracted staff will not treat a youth in a cruel or inhumane manner. Unnecessarily harsh or indecent treatment is prohibited, regardless whether that treatment constitutes child abuse under the law.
- Retaliation is prohibited. No staff member shall retaliate against a youth because the youth has made a charge, testified, assisted, or participated in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this policy.
- Employed or contracted staff will not deprive a youth of basic needs, including food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and security.