



STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 10, 2008

TO: Residential Regional Directors, Superintendents of State-operated Residential Programs

FROM: Darryl Olson, Assistant Secretary for Residential Services

SUBJECT: Utilization of Direct-care Staff Prior to Certification to Supervised Youth

It has come to my attention that the Direct Care Staff Training Rule 63H-2.001-.008 states in section 63H-2.005(3)(4) that "residential staff are authorized to be in the presence of youth prior to the completion of training" and being fully certified. For a new hire/trainee to assume this role they must complete the following essential skills training listed below:

1. PAR Trained;
2. CPR/First Aid/AED training;
3. Mental Health and Substance Abuse;
4. Suicide recognition, prevention and intervention;
5. Safety, security and supervision, and
6. DJJ residential facility operations.

Once the trainee has completed the above essential skills they may be in the presence of youth while the remaining training requirements are completed. However, until they complete all the remaining requirements the trainee must be under the direct supervision of a fully certified Juvenile Justice Residential Officer (JJRO).

The ability to utilize trainees, prior to full certification, as part of the staff to youth ratio may assist you in the reduction of overtime and burnout for certified staff. You will find the Department's Administrative Rules at <http://www.djj.state.fl.us/rules/index.html>.

Should you have any questions concerning this issue, contact Michael Moore at (850) 921-0999.

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Charlie Crist, Governor

Frank Peterman, Jr., Secretary

The mission of the Department of Juvenile Justice is to increase public safety by reducing juvenile delinquency through effective prevention, intervention, and treatment services that strengthen families and turn around the lives of troubled youth.