

<b>GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE</b>	Transmittal # 17-14	Policy # 15.4
Applicability: { } All DJJ Staff { } Administration { } Community Services {x} Secure Facilities (RYDCs and YDCs)	Related Standards & References: ACA Standards: 4-JCF-3A-14, JDF-5G-06  DJJ 12.21, 12.22, 15.2, 16.5	
Chapter 15: RIGHTS OF YOUTH	Effective Date: 12/15/17 Scheduled Review Date: 12/15/18 Replaces: 2/15/13	
Subject: VIEWING, LISTENING, AND READING MATERIALS	APPROVED:	
Attachments:  None	 <hr/> Avery D. Niles, Commissioner	

## I. POLICY:

The Department of Juvenile Justice will provide and encourage the use of media materials, including books, magazines, movies, television programs, audiotapes and discs that are age-appropriate and beneficial to the growth, wholesome entertainment, and education of youth under its care.

## II. DEFINITIONS:

**Educational:** Relating to the development of positive mental or moral growth and instructional in nature (e.g., documentaries, biographies, newscasts, journals, etc.).

**Facilities:** Youth Development Campuses and Regional Youth Detention Centers

### Movie Ratings:

**G-Rated:** General; subject matter is suitable for children.

**PG-Rated:** Parental guidance suggested; some subject matter may not be suitable for children.

**PG-13 Rated:** Parental guidance suggested; some subject matter may be inappropriate for children under 13.

**R-Rated:** Restricted; under the age of seventeen requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

**NC-17 Rated:** No one under the age of seventeen admitted.

**X-Rated:** No one under the age of eighteen admitted.

**Parental Advisory:** A notice to consumers that media identified by this logo may contain strong language or depictions of violence, sex or substance abuse.

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### Video and Computer Game Ratings:

**E or E+10 (Everyone):** Content that is suitable for ages 10 and over. Subject matter may include cartoons, fantasy or mild violence, mild language, and/or minimal suggestive themes.

**T (Teen):** Content that may be suitable for ages 13 and older. Subject matter may contain violence, suggestive themes, crude humor, minimal blood and/or infrequent use of strong language.

**M (Mature):** Content that may be suitable for persons ages 17 and older. Subject matter may contain intense violence, blood and gore, sexual content, and/or strong language.

**A (Adults Only):** Content that should only be played by persons 18 years and older. Subject matter may include prolonged scenes of intense violence and/or graphic sexual content and nudity.

### III. PROCEDURES:

#### A. Reading Materials:

1. Youth will be permitted to have the following reading materials in their room subject to space limitations at any time:
  - a. Books (library, personal, or religious materials);
  - b. Photographs;
  - c. Writing journals used for therapeutic purposes;
  - d. Writing utensils (washable nontoxic);
  - e. Writing/coloring/arts books/puzzles;
  - f. Other items approved by the facility Director;
  - g. Personal letters; and
  - h. Legal materials.

All staples, paperclips, binder clips, etc. will be removed prior to allowing reading materials into a youth's room.

2. Youth will be permitted access to the following reading materials as approved:
  - a. Magazines, with the staples removed prior to youth access;

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- b. Administrative material (e.g., youth handbook);
    - c. Newspapers; and
    - d. Additional material as approved by the facility Director.
  - 3. Youth will have access to reading materials on each living unit or accessible library.
  - 4. Families or organizations will be permitted to donate audio media and reading materials to the facility. Donated reading materials must be checked for contraband before entering program areas and must be screened for appropriateness by the facility Director or designee. Donated reading materials will become the property of the facility.
  - 5. The facility will provide religious material as requested by youth.
  - 6. The following reading materials are prohibited in all facilities/programs:
    - a. Obscene material, as defined by O.C.G.A. § 16-12-80;
    - b. Materials promoting gang activity;
    - c. Materials promoting hatred or violence based on race, sex, sexual orientation, religion or national origin; and
    - d. Materials focusing on violence (e.g., wrestling or fighting magazines).
  - 7. The disciplinary process will be used if a youth abuses the privilege of having items listed in section A1. (See DJJ 16.5, Disciplinary Hearing.)
- B. Listening/Video/Computer Games/Viewing Materials:
- 1. Any materials (e.g. films, videos, books, games) that are sexually explicit, pornographic, or those which glorify violence, show excessive gore, pain or physical suffering are prohibited on the grounds of any DJJ operated or contracted facility/program.
  - 2. Film viewing will be restricted to those programs rated G, PG, and PG-13 that have educational, literary, artistic, wholesome recreational and/or entertainment value.
  - 3. Educational films or films of significant educational or artistic value that contain violence or portray pain and suffering shall be viewed at the discretion of the

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facility/program Director or designee. Viewing of such films will be followed by guided group discussion to place the film in a responsible context.

4. Polaroid pictures are strictly prohibited.
  5. The DJJ Office of Financial Services will obtain a video performance license that allows DJJ operated or contracted facilities/programs to show rented movies or films for entertainment or recreational purposes. No such license is required to show movies or films for educational or training purposes. No films taped or dubbed from other tapes and/or pay television will be shown or sold due to copyright laws.
  6. Television viewing will be allowed according to the programming schedule. Staff should preview all material before presenting to youth, in accordance with the facility's local operating procedure.
  7. Audio media labeled with a "Parental Advisory" will be prohibited from the grounds of any DJJ operated or contracted facility/program.
  8. No audio media will be taped or dubbed from other sources, given to youth, or sold by staff due to copyright laws.
  9. Video or computer games will be limited to those that are E-rated or T-rated and have educational, literary, artistic, wholesome recreational and/or entertainment value.
  10. Staff will not print web-based (internet) pages for youth, except with the approval of the facility Director or designee.
- C. Viewing, listening and reading materials may be limited for therapeutic reasons as indicated in a Level II or Level III Protocol in accordance with DJJ 12.21, Suicide Prevention, or in a youth's Special Management Plan in accordance with DJJ 12.22, Special Management Planning.
- D. All videos, reading materials, and video games brought on campus by staff for viewing/playing by youth must be reviewed and approved by the Director or designee prior to use. Designated staff will review any questionable material and make recommendations to the Director for exclusion.
- E. Employees will not bring prohibited reading, viewing, or listening materials on the premises of a DJJ operated or contracted facility/program.
- F. Youth will be made aware of this policy through student handbooks.

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- G. Youth will have the right to appeal denial of any material pursuant to this policy through the DJJ grievance process. (See DJJ 15.2, Grievance Process.)

**IV. LOCAL OPERATING PROCEDURES REQUIRED: YES**

- Process and staff responsible for previewing all material before it is presented to youth.
- Specify the Director's designee.