

YOUTH SERVICES POLICY

Title: Americans With Disabilities Act (Youth) Next Annual Review Date: 04/29/2018	Type: B. Classification, Sentencing and Service Functions Sub Type: 8. Youth Related Services Number: B.8.8
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References: Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; Federal Register, July 26, 1991 (28 CFR Part 35); Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in State and Local Government Services - Final Rule; "Prison Rape Elimination Act" of 2003, Public Law 108-79; ACA Standards 2-CO-2B-04 and 2-CO-3C-01 (Standards for Administration of Correctional Agencies); 4-JCF-5B-05 (Performance-Based Standards for Juvenile Correctional Facilities); US DOJ PREA Standards 115.316(a) – (c), and 115.364; YS Policy Nos. B.5.3 "Administrative Remedy Procedure" and C.2.11 "Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)"	
STATUS: Approved	
Approved By: <i>Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary</i>	Date of Approval: 04/29/2014

I. AUTHORITY:

Deputy Secretary of Youth Services (YS) as contained in La. R.S. 36:405. Deviation from this policy must be approved by the Deputy Secretary.

II. PURPOSE:

To establish the Deputy Secretary's commitment to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) as they pertain to services and programs for youth in the custody and/or under the supervision of YS.

III. APPLICABILITY:

Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Undersecretary, Chief of Operations, Deputy Assistant Secretary, General Counsel, Regional Directors, Facility Directors, Regional Managers, Central Office (CO) Youth ADA Coordinator, and all youth assigned to or under the supervision of YS.

IV. DEFINITIONS:

Administrative Remedy Procedure - A formal review process through which a youth may seek resolution of complaints relating to his stay in a YS secure care facility.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) – A comprehensive law passed by Congress to protect disabled persons from discrimination in employment, hiring, transportation, access to public facilities and services, and telecommunications.

Disability – With respect to an individual, the term “disability” means:

- A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual;
- A record of such impairment; or
- Being regarded as having such impairment.

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) - An Act signed into law in September 2003. This legislation requires the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to initiate new national data collections on the incidence and prevalence of sexual violence within correctional facilities. PREA defines four categories of sexual abuse for purposes of data collection: abusive sexual contacts, nonconsensual sexual acts, staff sexual harassment and staff sexual misconduct. (Additional information about PREA can be reviewed in YS Policy No. C.2.11.)

YS Central Office - Offices of the Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Undersecretary, Chief of Operations, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legal Counsel, Regional Directors, and their support staff.

V. POLICY:

It is the Deputy Secretary's policy to provide youth with access to housing and education and treatment programs and services regardless of their disability to the extent possible. This shall be accomplished within the context of YS' fundamental mission to preserve the safety of the public, staff and youth, and shall be consistent with other classification variables that may affect custody, living area and program assignments.

Access to living areas, programs and services includes the initiation and provision of reasonable accommodations designed to address the specific physical or mental impairment that youth may have. Reasonable accommodations may include facility modifications, assistive equipment and devices for hearing and/or learning impaired, and interpreter services to overcome communication barriers. YS also offers a variety of education and treatment programs available to youth in custody with both physical and mental impairments, including learning disabilities related to literacy and/or cognitive skills. However, any accommodation for any disclosed disability shall not constitute a danger to the youth or others.

VI. PROCEDURES FOR YOUTH TO REQUEST ACCOMMODATION:

- A. A youth with a disability may be able to function without any accommodation other than that which may already have been provided. If additional accommodation is necessary, a request for same should be addressed to the Facility Director for youth housed in a secure care facility, or the Regional Manager for youth under supervision by Community Based Services (CBS) for consideration and appropriate action. The request may be verbal or written. The “Youth Request for Accommodation” form [see Attachment B.8.8 (a)] should be initiated for each request.
- B. The completed “Youth Request for Accommodation” form, with attachments, shall be forwarded by the Facility Director/Regional Manager to the appropriate Regional Director/designee for review, who shall work with the Facility Director/Regional Manager regarding any concerns. If it is believed the requested accommodation cannot be reasonably accomplished, the Facility Director/Regional Manager shall forward the case file with an action plan to the Deputy Secretary/designee for review.
- C. If a youth is not satisfied with the results of the request for accommodation, the youth may seek relief through the Administrative Remedy Procedure (ARP) pursuant to YS Policy No. B.5.3.

VI. PROCEDURES FOR YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES AND LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY:

- A. Youth with disabilities shall have an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from all aspects of YS’ efforts to prevent, detect and respond to injurious sexual conduct and sexual harassment.
- B. When necessary to ensure effective communication, youth with hearing deficits shall be provided an interpreter. Youth interpreters, readers or assistants shall not be relied upon except where an extended delay in obtaining a qualified interpreter could compromise a youth’s safety, compromise the performance of first-responder duties under US DOJ Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Standard 115.364, or materially delay any investigation of the youth’s allegations.
- C. Written materials shall be provided in a format that allows any youth with a communication disability or with limited English to adequately convey and describe their concerns, allegations or any requested accommodation, or in any format which otherwise ensures effective communication between YS staff and any youth with communication disabilities.

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- D. YS is not mandated to take steps which would result in a fundamental alteration in a service program or activity or that would create undue financial and administrative burdens pursuant to Title II of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Previous Regulation/Policy Number: B.8.8

Previous Effective Date: 04/23/2012



Attachments/References: B.8.8 (a) YOUTH REQUEST FOR ACCOMMODATION - April,2012.docx