
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Dear Colleagues:

Today is THE DAY that our name officially changes to Office of Juvenile Justice, under Act 565 of the 2008 Legislature. I think the name change will really help us with the public we serve. The new name more closely identifies who we are and what we do, and provides better understanding for the public, and the people we work with in communities throughout Louisiana.

A major sign of change is our new logo. I hope you have all seen it by now and that you are happy with this new symbol for our agency. In creating the new logo, we wanted a symbol that embraces our state, while providing a look that is professional and dignified. I hope the new logo is a reflection of the terrific, dedicated people who work in the Office of Juvenile Justice, and is symbolic of the work we do. I hope it gives us all a sense of pride in who we are as an agency.

We are working on getting some items with the new name and logo on them to promote who we are and what we're about. We have ordered flags with the name and logo, to be displayed, if appropriate, at each regional office and facility, to show that OJJ has a statewide presence. We will soon send out pens with the name "Office of Juvenile Justice" on them – please use them to show pride in agency and new name. We have plastic water bottles to distribute, and ceramic mugs are on the way. We are working on an order of shirts with the new logo, so that every OJJ employee can have a new shirt that displays pride in our agency.

What the name change does not do, is change our mission, focus or duties. We have a newly worded mission – it's short and to the point:

The Office of Juvenile Justice protects the public by providing safe and effective individualized services to youth, who will become productive, law-abiding citizens.

The mission statement should guide us in everything we do – our processes, policies, procedures and decision-making. If what we're doing does not somehow contribute to the mission, then we should not be doing it.

I want to challenge everyone in the agency – know what our mission is, and know how each of us contributes to it. It's really simple:

1. We protect the public safety.
2. We provide effective services for individual youth.
3. Our youth become law-abiding citizens.

As always, I appreciate the work you do every day to meet our mission.

Sincerely,

"DOC"

Dr. Mary Livers

P. S. Thanks for all your emails in response to last week's "What's Up, Doc?" Keep them coming.

Mary L. Livers, MSW, PH.D, Interim Deputy Secretary

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