

YOUTH SERVICES POLICY

Title: Dress Code for Secure Care Facilities and Community Based Services	Type: A. Administrative Sub Type: 2. Personnel Number: A.2.15
Page 1 of 10	
References: YS Policy Nos. A.1.14 "Unusual Occurrence Reports", A.2.1 "Employee Manual", A.2.19 "Commissioned Probation and Parole Officer – Juvenile Special Agents", A.2.35 "Employee Exit Processing", A.2.56 "Central Office Dress Code", A.3.12 "Issuance of Clothing Inventory", C.1.4 "Attorney Visits", C.1.8 "Firearms Training, Use and Revocation", C.2.8 "Youth Visitation in Secure Facilities", C.6.1 "Food Services" and D.2.2 "Off Duty Work Details"	
STATUS: Approved	
Approved By: <i>William A. Sommers, Deputy Secretary</i>	Date of Approval: 09/15/2022

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 guidelines regarding the appropriate attire to be worn during work hours and work-related activities by secure care, Community Based Services (CBS) or Central Office (CO) employees, contract providers, visitors, volunteers and interns, while on the grounds of a YS secure care facility or in the field.

III. APPLICABILITY:

All YS employees. Unit Heads are responsible for ensuring that the procedures outlined in this policy are complied with. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

IV. DEFINITIONS:

Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) – Sewn to military specifications and feature six pockets, four of which have button flaps. Seat and knee are double reinforced, and the trouser has a felled inseam, out seam and seat seam. Fused pocket flaps, four-button fly, adjustable waist tabs and drain holes in the bellows pockets. Nylon drawstring leg closures are fused knotted and tacked.

Commission Cards – Cards issued after appointment as a Special Agent certifying commission as a juvenile probation and parole officer.

Commissioned Officer – A probation and parole employee who has been issued a commission by the Deputy Secretary to carry a firearm when necessary to safely perform their required duties.

Custody Employees -- All security personnel, including but not limited to, Juvenile Justice Specialists are considered custody employees.

PPO/J – Includes CBS probation officers (Probation and Parole Officer 1, 2 and 3/Juvenile).

Probation & Parole Director – Director of Community-Based Services statewide including oversight of the OJJ probation and parole services programming and the operations of the Community-Based Services Regional Offices.

Special Agent – A probation and parole series employee hired prior to January 2000, whose authority to carry a weapon is pursuant to LA R.S. 15:825.2.

Tactical Pant -- Cotton canvas pants utilizing triple stitch reinforcements and extensive bartacking for maximum durability, with a self-adjusting waistband, a double thick seat and knees provide added protection, a seven pocket configuration for tactical gear, and an integrated D-ring at the hip holds for keys or ID. A sample of the approved tactical pant can be seen at the following website: <http://www.511tactical.com/511-tactical-pants-mens-cotton.html> (See attached photo)

Unit Head – For purposes of this policy, the Deputy Secretary, Facility Directors and Regional Managers.

Unusual Occurrence Report (UOR) - A document that must be completed by staff to report incidents or observations of events that may have an impact on any aspect of the agency. UOR forms shall be made available to all employees, working all areas at all times. Employees must complete and submit a UOR prior to the end of their tour of duty on the day the incident was observed or comes to the employee's attention in any way. If a UOR form is not available, the employee must use any paper available to report the pertinent information. UORs may also be submitted by email (refer to YS Policy No. A.1.14).

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

YS Employee - For the purposes of this policy, a YS employee includes employees, contract providers, visitors, volunteers or interns.

V. POLICY:

It is the Deputy Secretary's policy that employee attire during work hours and work-related activities shall be appropriate to the duties and content of the position, to the safety of the employee and other individuals, and to the probability of public contact. The personal appearance, grooming, and personal hygiene of employees contribute significantly toward the public impression of YS. Employees are expected to present a neat and professional appearance at all times. While the decision on dress is sometimes a personal choice by the employee, the employee's supervisor shall make the final decision whether the attire is appropriate for the work environment.

Because of working in close proximity to co-workers and youth, employees shall also be considerate of their co-workers and youth when applying perfumes, colognes, and after-shave lotions, and should also limit the use of fragrances (e.g., hand lotions, potpourris, air fresheners) within the workplace.

VI. DRESS/APPEARANCE CODE (ALL SECURE CARE/CBS YS EMPLOYEES):

The following is applicable to all YS employees, regardless of position, unless otherwise stated herein:

- A. Employees shall be neat at all times and shall be clean in appearance with all standard equipment properly attached.
- B. State issued work clothing and specified accessories shall be ordered in accordance with specifications provided by Public Safety Services /Office of Management and Finance (PSS/OMF)/Purchasing.
- C. State issued work clothing shall not be altered in appearance without the approval of the Regional Director.
- D. Employees who are subpoenaed to attend court and/or Civil Service hearings shall wear formal work attire. Jeans, state issued polo shirts and approved tactical pants shall not be worn to court or Civil Service hearings.
- E. ID Card - Agency issued identification cards shall be on each employee's person at all times, and shall include the employee's photograph and name. No pins or stickers shall be attached to the ID Card. Badges and/or ID Cards shall only be used in the performance of official duties pursuant to YS Policy No. A.2.1 (b), "Employee Rules of Conduct", Rule 4d. Employees are expected to take proper precautions to prevent the loss or theft of the ID Card.
- F. Hair shall be clean, neatly trimmed and combed to present a professional appearance. Hairstyles shall not be extreme or extreme in color (i.e., blue, orange, green, etc.).

- G. Visible branding, earlobe expansions, body piercings (nose, tongue, lip, eyebrow, etc.), other than earrings are not permitted. Braces and removable or fixed retainer for orthodontic treatment are permitted.
- H. Exposure of offensive tattoos is prohibited.
- I. Sunglasses may only be worn outdoors. The wearing of sunglasses or any other eyewear of unusual design, construction, shape or color which projects a less than professional appearance is prohibited while on duty.
- J. Mustaches are permitted provided that they are neat and trimmed. Beards shall be kept neatly trimmed and shall not exceed 1 - 1/4" in length. Sideburns shall be kept neat and squared and shall not exceed below the ear lobe.
- K. Fingernails shall be moderate in length to enable employees to perform their duties. Nail polish color shall not be extreme. Multicolored fingernail polish or polish with designs or ornamentation is prohibited.
- L. Eyelashes must be of a natural color and length and shall not contain glitter, rhinestones or other ornamentation.
- M. Face paint/adornments to the face of any type are prohibited.
- N. Flip flops, Crocs, slippers, or similar foot wear are not permitted.
- O. Footwear that requires laces should be laced up and tied.

CO and CBS staff shall ensure that Section VIII is adhered to when frequenting a secure care facility. (Refer to YS Policy No. A.2.56)

VII. CUSTODY STAFF:

Custody staff shall be issued uniforms pursuant to YS Policy No. A.3.12. Items shall be issued to and worn by staff as follows:

- A. Shirts - Shirts are to be comfortable and shall not be tight fitting. Shirt tails shall be tucked inside the pants (at all times) at the waistline. Shirts shall be worn with the collar open and top button unbuttoned. Tee shirts that are worn and are visible under the uniform shirt shall be white or navy blue in color.
- B. Pants - Pants are to be uniform issue only, be comfortable and shall not be tight fitting. Pants shall be firmly fitted at the waist (no gathers) and neatly fitted at the heel. BDU military style pants are not allowed. Pants shall not be tucked into shoes/socks at any time.

YS Policy No. A.2.15

Page 5

- C. Maternity wear - Female staff members may wear appropriate maternity clothing in khaki or navy color as authorized by the Facility Director.
- D. Belts - A black or brown leather belt shall be worn with uniform pants.
- E. Shoes - Low-heeled (1" or under), black or brown leather or leather-like closed-toe shoes/sneakers shall be worn. Shoes shall be clean when reporting to duty.
- F. Steel toe boots are permissible only when performing outdoor duties that require the use of machinery (i.e. tractors, lawnmowers, vocational trades, etc.)
- G. Open-toe shoes are not permitted.
- H. Outer wear - Uniform staff may be allowed to wear their personal coats, sweaters, jackets, etc. (black or dark blue, and in good condition).
- I. Except as otherwise stated in this policy, custody staff shall be attired in the standard dress, unless assigned administrative or special duties or when the wearing of a uniform would impede job performance.
- J. Discretion is allowed by each Facility Director relative to appropriate dress during physical training sessions. Shorts are prohibited.
- K. The following non-uniform items may be issued to custody staff and worn in the manner indicated:
 - 1. Rain Wear - Rain suits with detachable hoods may be issued to staff based on job site and/or duty assignment.
 - 2. Handcuffs - Personal handcuffs and other unauthorized equipment are not allowed. When custody staff is required to carry state-issued handcuffs, the handcuffs shall be worn in a standard, black handcuff case.
 - 3. Rubber Boots - Black rubber boots may be issued to custody staff based on job site and/or duty assignment.
- L. The following personal items may be worn or utilized by custody staff in the manner indicated:
 - 1. Hair Styles and Appearance – Hair shall be clean, neatly trimmed and combed to present a professional appearance. Hairstyles must not be extreme regardless of length. The wearing of a wig or hairpiece must conform to the guidelines herein. Hair coloring must appear natural.

2. Jewelry - All custody staff may wear appropriate medical identification bracelets or necklaces only. Non-medical necklaces and chains of any kind are prohibited. Stud-type or small earrings are permissible. Rings and watches should not detract from uniform appearance. Rings shall be limited to two, one on each hand.

An engagement ring and wedding ring shall be considered as one ring for the purpose of this policy.

3. Cellular Telephones - Cellular telephones shall not be worn while on duty, unless authorized by the Regional Director.
4. Mace/pepper spray/chemical agents are prohibited, unless specifically authorized by the Deputy Secretary.

VIII. OTHER FACILITY EMPLOYEES (INCLUDING CONTRACT PROVIDERS, VOLUNTEERS, INTERNS AND VISITORS):

Administrative, direct care, contract providers, volunteers, and interns shall wear appropriate work clothing as required for their particular assignment/location.

Food Services Workers shall adhere to the dress code outlined in YS Policy No. C.6.1 at all times.

All visitors shall follow the dress code requirements outlined herein pursuant to YS Policy No. C.2.8.

A. **Appropriate** work clothing consists of the following:

1. Blouses, shirts, sweaters, polo shirts and other top garments that are not too tight, too low cut or revealing;
2. Slacks or khaki type pants not too tight, revealing, or worn too low;
3. Sandals with a back strap that comes over the foot;
4. Professional length dresses/skirts;
5. Jeans in good condition, not torn, faded, ripped or adorned, and tennis shoes only on Fridays and other specified "casual dress days" designated by the Regional Director; and
6. Heels 2" or below for professional office attire.

- B. **Inappropriate** work clothing consists of the following:
1. Short dresses/skirts mini-skirts, mini-skorts, shorts or short capris.
 2. BDU military style pants or pants tucked into shoes/socks.
 3. Clothing of any kind that reveals undergarments in any way.
 4. The following tops shall not be worn **with or without** a jacket/sweater:
 - tank tops and blouses;
 - Halter tops, tube tops, backless tops;
 - Camisole type t-shirts or regular t-shirts, tank tops, muscle shirts; however, t-shirts may be worn as an undergarment under clothing;
 - Spaghetti straps or strapless blouses;
 - Mid-drift tops;
 - Sheer clothing; or
 - Tops that are too tight too low cut or reveal cleavage.
 5. Clothing with inappropriate language (obscenities) or pictures.
 6. Flip flops, Crocs, and slippers. Boots and shoes with a heel 2 inches or higher. Tennis shoes shall not be worn unless as described in VIII.A.5 above.

IX. COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES:

Community Based Services staff shall be issued an agency approved uniform, consisting of khaki tactical pants, navy polo shirts, and white long-sleeve dress shirt.

- A. PPOs and JJS Transport Staff shall wear the issued uniform clothing for all of their daily work and field activities.
- B. Regional Directors, Regional Managers, and Probation & Parole Supervisors have the option to wear the agency approved uniform in their daily work activities.
- C. All Probation and Parole field staff, Probation and Parole Supervisors, Regional Managers and Regional Directors shall wear the agency issued/approved uniform when conducting the following high-risk activities/duties:

1. Transporting youth;
 2. Taking youth into custody, arrest team, apprehensions;
 3. Working escape details for the agency;
 4. Conducting curfew checks;
 5. Assisting law enforcement agencies in warrant sweeps, community policing activities; details related to emergency management;
 6. Handling emergency/crisis situations on behalf of the agency; and
 7. Certain job assignments as specified by the agency.
- D. When wearing the agency issued/approved uniform, the following dress should be noted:
1. Shirt tails shall be tucked inside the pants (at all times) at the waistline.
 2. Tee shirts that are worn and are visible under the uniform shirt shall be white or navy blue in color.
 3. BDU military style pants are not allowed. Pants shall not be tucked into shoes/socks at any time.
 4. Belts shall be brown
 5. Shoes shall be brown tactical type shoes or boots.
 6. Bullet-proof vests shall be worn at all times when out of the office performing agency field activities.
- E. State issued work clothing shall not be altered in appearance without the approval of the OJJ Probation & Parole Program Director.
- F. Upon leaving employment with the agency, field staff must return all state issued uniforms, shirts, pants, boots, etc., as well as the agency badge and all issued equipment.
- G. PPO/J officers should be prepared with proper clothing and equipment on-hand at all times for all levels of duty. Court and field attire should be accessible in the office when needed.
- H. All Probation & Parole staff shall follow the guidelines stipulated by each judge regarding professional dress in the courtroom when attending court hearings (including suits/ties). Agency issued uniforms shall not be worn to court if the judge specifies this is not acceptable attire in the courtroom. Bullet-proof vests shall not be worn in the courtroom if the judge specifies this is not acceptable attire in the courtroom.

- I. Discretion is allowed by each Regional Director relative to appropriate dress during physical training sessions. Shorts are prohibited.
- J. T-shirts that are agency specific can be worn for training and/or emergency response or arrest team purposes only; or as allowed by the Regional Director.
- I. **Appropriate** work clothing for community-based services staff when not wearing agency issued uniforms, consists of the following:
 1. Blouses, shirts, sweaters, polo shirts and other top garments that are not too tight, too low cut or revealing;
 2. Spaghetti strap type tanks/blouses/dresses must be worn with a jacket/sweater at all times. Sleeveless dresses/blouses must be worn with a sweater or jacket when attending court.
 3. Slacks or pants not too tight, revealing or worn too low;
 4. Hoodies and athletic jackets may be worn for training purposes only. They are inappropriate for office, field, or court wear.
 5. Sandals with a back strap;
 6. Professional length dresses/skirts; and
 7. Jeans in good condition, not torn, faded, ripped or adorned, and tennis shoes on Fridays, the day before a holiday or specified "casual dress" days.
 8. T-shirts that are agency specific can also be worn on Fridays or other specified "casual dress" days, provided this is not inappropriate with given work duties on that day.
- J. **Inappropriate** work clothing consists of the following:
 1. Short dresses/skirts, mini-skirts, mini-skorts, shorts or short capris;
 2. BDU military style pants or pants tucked into shoes/socks.
 3. Clothing of any kind that reveals undergarments in any way.
 4. The following tops shall not be worn with or without a jacket/sweater:
 - Halter tops, tube tops, backless tops;
 - Camisole type t-shirts or regular t-shirts, tank tops, muscle shirts; however, t-shirts may be worn as an undergarment under clothing;
 - Strapless blouses;
 - Mid-drift tops;
 - Sheer clothing; or
 - Tops that are too tight too low cut or reveal cleavage.
 5. Clothing with inappropriate language (obscenities) or pictures;
 6. Flip flops, Crocs and slippers. Boots and shoes with a heel 2 inches or higher. Tennis shoes shall not be worn unless as allowed for specific training and/or Friday casual days or other designated "casual dress" days.

As stated under Section VI of this policy, CBS staff shall ensure that Section VIII is adhered to when frequenting a secure care facility.

Special Agents/Commissioned Probation and Parole Officers shall, when carrying a weapon, such as: firearm, baton and/or chemical aerosol spray, prominently display their badge and ID card, and have on their person their Special Agent commission card pursuant to Section VI.E of YS Policy No. A.2.19.

Each Special Agent/Commissioned Probation and Parole Officer shall be required to sign a "Receipt of Badge and Holder" at the time of the issue [see Attachment A.2.15 (a)]. Signed receipts shall be placed in the employee's personnel record at the appropriate Regional Office.

All incidents of loss or theft of agency identification shall be reported immediately to the Supervisor and followed-up in writing with an Unusual Occurrence Report (UOR) (refer to YS Policy No. A.1.14). The UOR shall be forwarded through the Regional Manager to the Regional Director.

X. RESTRICTIONS:

YS staff shall not purchase, consume or possess any alcoholic beverages while on duty or dressed in designated work clothing. Custody and CBS staff in state approved uniform dress shall not enter places such as bars, lounges or saloons. Additionally, staff shall not loiter at any establishment serving alcoholic beverages while in approved uniform dress.

XI. SEPARATION FROM EMPLOYMENT:

Upon an employee's separation from employment, all State issued items shall be returned in accordance with YS Policy No. A.2.35 and Unit procedures.

XII. EXCEPTIONS:

The Deputy Secretary may grant an exception to any provision of this policy, provided such exception shall not be in conflict with State Civil Service rules or other pertinent policies/regulations.

Previous Regulation/Policy Number: A.2.15

Previous Effective Date: 07/22/2021

Attachments/References: A.2.15 (a) Receipt of Badge and Holder July2014.docx
Photo of approved Tactical Pant.docx

**YOUTH SERVICES
OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE**

RECEIPT OF BADGE AND HOLDER

I, _____,
NAME

TITLE

have read YS Policy A.2.15 and acknowledge receipt of the following items:

Badge and badge holder.

I understand and agree that I am responsible for returning these items to Youth Services, Office of Juvenile Justice upon my separation from employment with this agency. Should these items be lost or destroyed, I agree to reimburse the agency for the cost of replacements.

I further understand that my final paycheck may be held by the agency until such time as the badge and/or case are returned or reimbursement is made to the agency.

Signed _____

Date _____

Witnessed by _____
NAME

TITLE

c: Employee
Regional Manager

Approved Tactical Pant

