

YOUTH SERVICES POLICY

Title: Community Based Services Youth Records: Composition and Maintenance	Type: D. Community Based Services Sub Type: 5. Youth Records Number: D.5.1
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References: La. Revised Statute 15:574.12, La. Children's Code Articles 411 - 417; ACA Standards 2-7070, 2-7071, 2-7072 (Juvenile Probation and Aftercare Services), 2-CO-1E-01, 2-CO-1E-02, 2-CO-1E-03, 2-CO-1E-06, 2-CO-1E-07, 2-CO-1E-08, 2-CO-1F-06 (Administration of Correctional Agencies); YS Policy No. A.1.9 "Records Management and Retention"	
STATUS: Approved	
Approved By: <i>Otha "Curtis" Nelson, Jr., Deputy Secretary</i>	Date of Approval: 04/05/2023

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 uniform policy regarding the contents and maintenance of case records and the Juvenile Electronic Tracking System (JETS) records of youth served by YS/OJJ.

III. APPLICABILITY:

Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Chief of Operations, Probation and Parole Director - Juvenile, Executive Management Advisor, General Counsel, Regional Directors, Regional Managers, and all Community Based Services (CBS) employees.

Regional Managers are responsible for establishing procedures to ensure case records are returned and secured at the end of each day.

IV. DEFINITIONS:

Case Record – A four-part letter size folder containing hard copies of legal documents, required signature pages, and other case record materials outlined throughout this policy.

Community Based Services (CBS) - Includes all regional probation and parole field offices located throughout the state.

Court Documents - All official documents from the court including petitions, court minutes, judgments, commitment orders and any other documents authorizing YS to accept custody, to allow reassignment, release or discharge of youth.

Juvenile Electronic Tracking System (JETS) - The centralized database used to track all youth under OJJ supervision or custody, and to record all youth case record activity.

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

Public Records Custodian – The staff member designated by a Unit Head to serve as Public Records Custodian to perform the duties of records management as required by law. (Refer to YS Policy No. A.1.9)

Regional Managers - Managers of the Community Based Services (CBS) regional offices located throughout the state.

Unit Head– For the purposes of this policy, Unit Head consist of Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Undersecretary, Chief of Operations, Probation and Parole Director - Juvenile, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Facility Directors, and Regional Managers.

V. POLICY:

In order to provide effective and efficient delivery of services to youth under the supervision or in custody of YS, a single case record shall be established for each youth. The record shall contain certified copies of all legal documents concerning the youth, required signature forms, correspondence, and other forms as deemed appropriate. All other required information shall be created and entered in JETS.

Youth case records are confidential. Release of information shall only be made in accordance with provisions of the La. Children's Code, Articles 411 through 417 or La. Revised Statute 15:574.12.

VI. PROCEDURES:

- A. Unless otherwise noted, documents shall be filed in chronological order.
- B. All entries in both the case record and the JETS record shall be dated and signed at the time of entry.
- C. Case Records and JETS records shall be initiated by the assigned PPO/J or designated CBS personnel within the regional office.
- D. Unsigned and uncertified copies of documents shall be removed from the case record once signed/filed copies are received.

- E. Records shall not contain multiple copies of the same document.
- F. The youth's assigned PPO/J shall be responsible for the accuracy of information contained therein, as well as the information entered into JETS.

Any previously archived case record shall be merged into the youth's new case record.

- G. Upon a youth's transfer from one regional office to another regional office, the placing PPO/J shall forward the case record within ten (10) days to the receiving PPO/J with all pertinent case documents not available in JETS. Case documents not in JETS should be emailed/scanned to the receiving district and a read receipt should be utilized. Examples of placement packet case documents that should be forwarded to the receiving district are: documents that have signatures (court orders, service plan signature page, consent to release information, etc.); social history information that has not been entered into JETS; birth certificate; social security cards; and any psychological or educational evaluations or assessments. Other documents not found in JETS but essential to providing appropriate case services may need to be sent to the receiving district as well.

The JETS record shall be updated by the placing PPO/J with all relevant information prior to a youth's transfer to another region.

- H. Case Narrative entries shall detail all contacts with the youth and family, as well as contacts with the courts, schools, community programs, service agencies, and others involved with the youth. Headings provided in the body of the case narratives shall be utilized. The following shall also be documented for each entry:

- 1. Date of activity or contact;
- 2. Who was contacted;
- 3. Where the contact was made; and
- 4. Summary of what transpired during the contact/activity.

Case Narrative entries shall be documented in JETS within seven (7) working days of the activity/contact.

- I. Case staffings shall be documented in a Case Narrative, along with any significant events or decisions made in the case and the names of the participants. Case Staffing Reports shall be completed in JETS.
- J. When a case is closed, the supervising PPO/J shall create and complete the Probation/Parole Notification of Discharge Form.

The P&P Notification of Discharge Form should include the following:

1. Reason for Closure
2. Briefly describe the youth's behavior while under OJJ supervision or in custody;
3. Any unusual occurrences or significant events;
4. Use of community programs or resources; and
5. If the supervision or residential placement was successful.

Additional items required upon closing:

- Complete closure letter and mail to parent/guardian;
- Close programs in program screen and completed EPO4's;
- Close petition(s) to include legal status, closure date and closure code;
- Close caseworker screen;
- Close transfer screen to reflect "client exit" as assigned location;
- Enter completion dates on the ISP;
- If an ICJ case, a final progress report must be completed and submitted along with a letter to the ICJ administrator;
- Updated master reflecting closure shall be filed in the case record.

- K. The Regional Manager is responsible for ensuring that closed cases are handled in accordance with YS Policy No. A.1.9. The youth's record shall be retained at the regional office for a period of three (3) fiscal years, after the end of the fiscal year of the youth's supervision or custody.

At the expiration of the three-year period, the files shall be sent to the contracted archive facility noted in YS Policy No. A.1.9, where they will be retained for three additional fiscal years [refer to the instructions contained on Attachment A.1.9 (a)]. (Refer to Section VII of this policy)

- L. In the event an Expungement Order is received by the regional office, the order shall be promptly forwarded to Legal Services. The record shall be destroyed at the direction of the agency attorney.
- M. Case records are to be stored in either a locked file cabinet, locked desk or secure file room at the close of business of each day.
- N. When youth, parents, or others who are not authorized to have access to case records are present in the office, they are not to be left unattended in any area where access to a case record(s) is possible.
- O. Case records may be removed from the office for Probation and Parole Officer/Juvenile (PPO/J) or Probation and Parole Supervisor (PPS) court appearances at the discretion of the Regional Manager.

- P. In addition to the procedures contained in this policy, Regional Managers may develop and implement any other procedure for the maintenance and security of the youth case records in accordance with appropriate laws and YS policies.
- Q. The two (2) acceptable methods for destroying youth case records are shredding and incineration.

VII. CASE RECORD FORMAT:

Section 1 – Upper Left: This section contains identifying information and court documents in the following order:

DOCUMENT	HARD COPY in FILE	CREATED/FILED IN JETS
Master Form / Face Sheet	Yes	Yes
Time Computation Form	Yes	Yes
Offense Report	Yes	N/A
Intake Screening Report	Yes	No
Petitions	Yes	Yes
Probation Order(s)	Yes	Yes
Custody Order, Commitment Order, Motion to Modify, etc.	Certified Copy Yes	Yes

All documents concerning a single petition shall be kept together in the order described above. Detailed Offense Reports may be removed after disposition. Multiple petitions / dispositions shall be filed in chronological order with the most recent order at the bottom.

Section 2 – Lower Left: This section contains the forms used for placement in contract programs and for determining financial eligibility (some examples are):

DOCUMENT	HARD COPY or SIGNATURE PAGE in FILE	CREATED/FILED IN JETS
EP-04 & EP-06 (filed together)	Yes	Yes
156-A	Yes	N/A
FAST II	Yes	Yes
Medical Records	Yes	N/A
Birth Certificate	Yes	N/A

DOCUMENT	HARD COPY or SIGNATURE PAGE in FILE	CREATED/FILED IN JETS
Social Security Card	Yes	N/A
Consent for Release of Information	Yes	Yes
Staffing Forms	Yes	Yes
AFCARS Juvenile Source Document (always on bottom)	Yes	Yes
Photos of Youth (always on top)	Yes	No

Section 3 – Upper Right: This section contains evaluative information, the Individualized Service Plan (ISP) and the Case Narratives (for example):

DOCUMENT	HARD COPY with SIGNATURE PAGE in FILE	CREATED/FILED IN JETS
Administrative / Case Review Report	Signature Page only	Yes
ISP	Signature Page only	Yes
IAA / DDA Agreement Forms	Yes	Yes
PDI / Social History / Supplemental Social	Signature Page only	Yes
Psychological / Psychiatric Evaluation	Yes	N/A

Only current information is kept in this Section. All other information shall be filed in Section 4 of the case record.

Section 4 – Lower Right: This section contains correspondence, progress reports, and miscellaneous information (for example):

DOCUMENT	HARD COPY or SIGNATURE PAGE in FILE	CREATED/FILED IN JETS
Correspondence	Yes	Yes
Progress Reports	Yes	Yes
School Records	Yes	N/A
Unusual Occurrence Reports (UOR)	Yes	Yes
Electronic Monitoring Forms (EMP)	Yes	Yes

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DOCUMENT	HARD COPY or SIGNATURE PAGE in FILE	CREATED/FILED IN JETS
ICJ Forms / Reports	Yes	No
PREA Confirmation of Receipt	Yes	Yes
Verification of Personal Service	Yes	Yes
Grievance Procedure (always on bottom)	Yes	Yes
Crime Victim Notification Request	Yes	No
IV-E Candidacy Pre-screen Form	No	Yes
Supervisory Case Review Form	No	Yes
Drug Screen Result Form	Yes	No
Media Release (youth) Form	Yes	No
Probation/Parole Notification of Discharge	Yes	Yes

Any documentation not identified in other Sections shall be filed in Section 4.

VII. STATE ARCHIVES:

Pursuant to YS Policy No. A.1.9, all units within YS are required to comply with the Public Records Management Program as provided by law.

The unit's Public Records Custodian shall ensure that all the requirements of the program are met.

Previous Regulation/Policy Number: D.5.1

Previous Effective Date: 09/19/2022

Attachments/References: