

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICES
POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Policy No.: 03-01	Effective Date:	Revision Date: 07-13-16
Subject: Appropriate Use of Television and Video Games		

I. Policy Statement

Division facilities and programs shall establish television viewing criteria regarding suitable content and reasonable viewing schedules. Television, movies, and video games must be part of scheduled/structured programming and monitored by staff at all times.

II. Rationale

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that juveniles are viewing television, movies, and video games with appropriate content and for reasonable periods of time.

III. Definitions

“TV-Y” Appropriate for all children.

“TV-Y-7” Directed to older children 7 and above: May include mild fantasy violence or comedic violence, or may frighten children under the age of seven.

“TV-Y7-FV” Directed to older children – Contains Fantasy Violence: Fantasy violence may be more combative or intense than other programs in (TV-Y-7).

“TV-G” General Audience – Suitable for all ages: Most parents would find this content suitable for all ages. Contains little or no violence, strong language, or sexual dialogue/situations.

“TV-PG” Parental Guidance Suggested: Contains material that parents would find unsuitable for younger children. Programs may contain one or more of the following: some suggestive dialogue (D), infrequent coarse language (L), intense sexual situations (S), or intense violence (V).

“TV-14” Parental Guidance Strongly Cautioned: Contains some materials that many parents would find unsuitable for children under 14 years of age. Programs may contain one or more of the following: intensely suggestive dialogue (D), strong coarse language (L), intense sexual situations (S), or intense violence (V).

“TV-MA” Mature Audiences only: This program is specifically designed to be viewed by adults and therefore may be unsuitable for children under 17. Programs may contain one or more of the following: crude indecent language (L), explicit sexual activity (S), or graphic violence (V).

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“G” Rated for General Audiences: Contains nothing most parents will consider offensive for even their youngest children to see or hear. Nudity, sex scenes, and scenes of drug use are absent; violence is minimal; snippets of dialogue may go beyond polite conversation but do not go beyond common everyday expressions.

“PG” Rated for Parental Guidance: May contain some material parents might not like to expose to their young children-material that will clearly need to be examined or inquired about before children are allowed to watch. Explicit sex scenes and scenes of drug use are absent; nudity, if present, is seen only briefly, horror and violence do not exceed moderate levels.

“PG13” Parents Strongly Cautioned: May be inappropriate for pre-teens. Parents should be especially careful about letting their younger children attend. Rough or persistent violence is absent; sexually-oriented nudity is generally absent; some scenes of drug use may be seen; some use of one of the harsher sexually-derived words may be heard.

“R” Restricted: May contain some adult material. Parents are urged to learn more about the movie before allowing juveniles to see it.

“NC-17” Adults Only

“C” Rated for Early Childhood – Content is intended for young children.

“E” Rated for Everyone - Content is generally suitable for all ages. May contain minimal cartoon, fantasy or mild violence and/or infrequent use of mild language.

“E 10 +” Rated for Everyone 10 and over. May contain more cartoon, fantasy or mild violence, mild language and/or minimal suggestive themes.

“T” Rated for Teen is defined as generally suitable for ages 13 and up. T may contain violence, suggestive themes, crude humor, minimal blood, simulated gambling, and/or infrequent use of strong language.

“M” Rated for Mature. May contain intense violence, blood and gore, sexual content and/or strong language.

“A” Rated for Adults Only. Must be 18 years of age older. May include prolonged scenes of intense violence, graphic sexual content and/or gambling with real currency.

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“Unrated” or “RP” Rating Pending. Has not yet been rated. Appears only in advertising, marketing and promotional materials related to a "boxed" movie/video game that is expected to carry an ESRB rating, and should be replaced by a movie/game's rating once it has been assigned.

IV. Procedures

A. Television and Movies

1. The viewing of television and movies must be part of scheduled/structured programming.
2. The viewing of television and movies must not interrupt regularly scheduled programming, e.g. church, group, study time, etc.
3. Staff shall position themselves to monitor all juveniles, at all times while viewing television and movies.
4. Staff shall only permit juveniles to view television programs rated TV-Y, TV-Y-7, TV-Y7-FV, TV-G, TV-PG, and TV-14.
5. Staff shall only permit juveniles to view other programs/movies rated G, and PG. Programs or movies rated PG-13 may be permitted **with APD approval** (day/time/staff documented in the shift log) **only**.
6. Regardless of the rating, television and/or movies that contain explicit/excessive profanity, nudity, sexual content, graphic or excessive violence, drug use or dealing, alcohol abuse, gangs, and/or portray any person as a sexual object are not permitted.
7. Special televised events, such as sporting events, political events, or breaking news, require supervisor approval prior to viewing when outside of scheduled programming.
8. Staff shall document the name and rating of each television show or movie viewed in the shift log.

B. Video Games

1. The playing of video games must be part of scheduled/structured programming.

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2. The playing of video games must not interrupt regularly scheduled programming, e.g. church, group, study time, etc.
3. Staff shall position themselves to monitor all juveniles at all times.
4. Staff shall only permit juveniles to play video games rated “C”, “E”, “E10+”, or T. Regardless of the rating, video games that contain explicit/excessive profanity, nudity, sexual content, violence, drug use or dealing, alcohol abuse, gangs, and/or portray any person as a sexual object are not permitted.

C. Television, Movies, Video games **PERMITTED**

1. “TV-Y” Appropriate for all children.
2. “TV-Y-7” Directed to older children, 7 and above.
3. “TV-Y7-FV” Directed to older children – Contains fantasy violence.
4. “TV-G” General Audience – Suitable for all ages.
5. “TV-PG” Parental Guidance Suggested.
6. “TV-14” Parental Guidance Strongly Cautioned for children under 14.
7. “G” Rated for General Audiences.
8. “PG” Rated for Parental Guidance.
9. “PG -13” Parents Strongly Cautioned - May be inappropriate for preteens.
(WITH DOCUMENTED APD APPROVAL ONLY)
10. “C” Rated for Early Childhood.
11. “E” Rated for Everyone.
12. “E 10 +” Rated for Everyone 10 and over.
13. “T” Rated for Teen

D. Television, Movies, Video games **NOT PERMITTED**

1. “TV-MA” Mature Audiences only - designed to be viewed by adults and therefore may be unsuitable for children under 17.
2. “R” Restricted
3. “NC-17 Adults Only”
4. “M” Rated for Mature
5. “A” Rated for Adults Only
6. “Unrated” or “RP” Rating Pending

- E. Music must be free of lyrics containing profanity, violence, drug use or dealing, gangs, disrespect to law enforcement, and portraying of any person as a sexual object.

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V. Continuous Renewal

This policy shall be reviewed every three (3) years to determine its effectiveness and appropriateness. This policy may be reviewed before that time to reflect substantive change.

This Policy has been reviewed by the Board of Juvenile Justice Services and is approved upon the signature of the Director.



Russell K. Van Vleet, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice Services

07-13-2016

Signature Date



Susan V. Burke, Director
Division of Juvenile Justice Services

07-13-2016

Signature Date