

Memorandum

CDP26-04

DATE: April 10, 2026

TO: Children's Division and Foster Care Case Management

FROM: Sara Smith, Children's Division Director

SUBJECT: **Media Releases**

OVERVIEW:

This notice is to inform staff that the media release policy has been updated to match statute.

Rule 110.04 a (12) defines a juvenile as "...a person under 21 years of age who is subject to the jurisdiction of the court..." Therefore, without prior specific authorization from the court, Children's Division staff shall not permit photographing, audio, or videotaping of any juvenile under the court's jurisdiction. Juveniles over the age of 18, in the care and custody of Children's Division, shall not sign their own media release.

CWM 8.4 Child Public Performance and Media Involvement has been updated to reflect this change:

[CWM 8.4 Child Exploitation, Public Performance and Media Involvement](#)

Age adjusted to under 21 years of age

- CWM 8.4.1 Child Exploitation, Public Performance and Media Involvement
- CWM 8.4.1.1 Request for Public Performance and Media Involvement Under 21 Years of Age
- CWM 8.4.1.4 Refusal of Public Performance and Media Involvement Under 21 Years of Age

[CWM 8.4 Child Exploitation, Public Performance and Media Involvement](#)

Rescinded:

- CWM 8.4.1.3 Request for Public Performance and Media Involvement 18 and Over
- CWM 8.4.1.6 Refusal of Public Performance and Media Involvement 18 and Over
- CWM 8.4.1.7 Youth Unable to Provide Informed Consent 18 and Over

For questions or concerns, please contact:

Rene' Brinkman, Older Youth Program Coordinator, at Rene.Brinkman@dss.mo.gov

Kate Watson, Deputy Director, at Kate.Watson@dss.mo.gov

CHILD WELFARE MANUAL POLICY AND COLLATERAL DOCUMENTATION:

[CWM 8.4 Child Exploitation, Public Performance and Media Involvement](#) (Revised subsections;
Rescinded subsections)

NECESSARY ACTION:

1. *Review this memorandum with all Children's Division and Foster Care Case Management team members.*
2. *Review Child Welfare Manual chapters and forms as indicated above.*