

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

**TO:** Interested Parties

**FROM:** Janice DeFrances, Ed.D.   
Director  
Department of Children, Youth and Families

**DATE:** January 7, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Proposed DCYF Rule

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In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, the Department is advertising for promulgation the following adopted DCYF rule. The proposed rule is accessible on the DCYF website (<http://www.dcyf.ri.gov>) and through the RI Secretary of State's Proposed Rules and Regulations Database Search (<http://www.sec.state.ri.us/ProposedRules/>).

Written comments may be submitted by February 16, 2015 to:

Sarah St. Jacques  
Department of Children, Youth and Families  
101 Friendship Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
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**Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression**

The proposed rule, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, sets standards which strictly prohibits discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status or disability or by association with an individual or group who has or is perceived to have one or more of such characteristics. The proposed rule requires staff and service providers to respect the dignity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning and intersex (hereinafter, LGBTQQI) youth and ensure LGBTQQI youth are protected from verbal, physical and/or sexual harassment or assault based on actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. In the development of this rule, consideration was given to: (1) alternative approaches and (2) overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions. No alternative approach or duplication or overlap was identified based upon available information.