Ohio | Department of Youth Services

Mike DeWine, Governor
Ryan Gies, Director

DATE: April 2, 2020

TO: Families/Guardians of Youth

FROM: Ryan Gies, Director
Julie Walburn, Assistant Director

SUBJECT: Books

The Ohio Department of Youth Services is continuing to identify ways to connect families with their youth during the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, we are pleased to share that we have made a change to our youth mail policy. This change will now allow you, as parents or guardians, to purchase books from any vendor (e.g. Amazon, Barnes & Nobles, Walmart, etc.) for your child/children to read.

We are asking that you adhere to the guidelines set forth below before purchasing a book(s) for your child. Please keep in mind that all book orders must be delivered directly to the facility from the vendor. Books mailed from home or that do not come from a recognized vendor will not be accepted.

The package needs to be addressed to the facility with the specified youth's name and DYS number. Books containing any of the following are considered contraband and will be returned to the sender:

- Nudity
- Gang terminology or pictures
- Profanity
- Excessive violence
- Strong references to substance use
- Sexual material
- Instances of sexual assault or domestic violence
- Any content deemed disruptive to facility operations

All reading materials will be subject to inspection, screening and approval, per the guidelines of our youth mail policy.

Thank you for your understanding and partnership during this challenging time.

Central Office
4545 Fisher Road, Suite D
Columbus, Ohio 43228

614-466-4314
www.dys.ohio.gov