



PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT (PREA) ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Division of Professional Development & Standards

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PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was unanimously passed by Congress and signed on September 4, 2003, by President George H.W. Bush, becoming the first federal legislation to address the issue of sexual assault in a correctional setting. The Act applies to sexual abuse in all custodial corrections settings, including prisons, jails, police lockups, juvenile facilities, and community residential settings. Moreover, the Act applies to all types of sexual misconduct against juveniles, including abuse by fellow juveniles and staff.

Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice

The Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) provides secure housing, programming, mental health services, health care services, and education for juveniles on probation, awaiting adjudication, or who have been adjudicated and committed to the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice.

The Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice reviews data collected and aggregated pursuant to PREA standards:

- 115.387 is used to assess and improve the effectiveness of the agency's sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training to include identifying problem areas and taking corrective action on an ongoing basis.

The Georgia DJJ yearly comparison report began in FY2013. Specific information from all reports is redacted to prevent any threat to the safety and security of secure facilities, community residential programs, court service offices, and youth and staff. The PREA Annual Report redacted information concerning staff and youth personal identifiers.

Summary

During the reporting period from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Office of Quality Assurance (OQA) database received a total of 111 allegations of PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) incidents. These allegations originated from DJJ's 25 Secure Facilities, 92 Community Service Offices, and 75 Residential Program Providers.

Of the 111 alleged PREA incidents:

- **Secure Facilities:**
 - 90 allegations were reported.
 - A detailed review of the 25 secure facilities resulted in:
 - 27 substantiated cases.
 - 59 unsubstantiated cases.
 - 4 unfounded cases.
 - In compliance with federal requirements, the Georgia DJJ is obligated to submit the 27 substantiated cases to the Department of Justice/Bureau of Justice Statistics and the U.S. Department of Commerce using the Survey of Sexual Victimization (SSV)

Report form. The Office of Investigations PREA Unit is responsible for preparing the SSV reports for each substantiated case, which will then be uploaded by the Office of Professional Development and Standards into the federal database.

- **Community Service Offices/Residential Program Providers:**

- 21 allegations were reported.
- A thorough review revealed:
 - 4 substantiated cases.
 - 16 unsubstantiated cases.
 - 1 unfounded case.

This data highlights the ongoing efforts and commitment of the DJJ to address and manage PREA incidents effectively, ensuring compliance with all mandated reporting and investigative processes.

PREA Standard 115.387 - Data Collection

Section (C), The incident-based data collection shall include, at a minimum, data necessary to answer all questions from the most recent version of the Survey of Sexual Violence conducted by the Department of Justice.

DJJ Established PREA Reporting Codes

Youth-On-Youth (PY)

1. PY1 = Youth-on-Youth Unwanted, Nonconsensual or Coerced Penetration (Department of Justice SSV-5 Title: Nonconsensual Sexual Acts)
2. PY2 = Youth-on-Youth Unwanted, Nonconsensual or Coerced Non-Penetration/Touching (Department of Justice SSV-5 Title: Abusive Sexual Contact)
3. PY3 = Youth-on-Youth Sexual Harassment (Department of Justice SSV-5 Title: Sexual Harassment)

Staff-On-Youth (PS)

4. PS1 = Staff-on-Youth Sexual Penetration (Department of Justice SSV-5 Title: Staff Sexual Misconduct)
5. PS2 = Staff-on-Youth Non-Penetration Touching (Department of Justice SSV-5 Title: Staff Sexual Misconduct)
6. PS3 = Staff -on-Youth Indecent Exposure (Department of Justice SSV-5 Title: Staff Sexual Misconduct)
7. PS4 = Staff-on-Youth Sexual Harassment or Voyeurism (Department of Justice SSV-5 Title: Staff Sexual Harassment)

Note: Definitions are based on the PREA standards 115.6 Definitions related to sexual abuse.

Yearly Allegation Comparison Reports 2013-2017

	PREA Codes	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
PY1	Unwanted Penetration	26	13	6	12	21
PY2	Unwanted Touching (Non-	50	56	53	30	27
PY3	Harassment	64	58	60	66	51
PS1	Sexual Penetration	14	4	3	7	3
PS2	Non-Penetration (Touching)	19	23	17	20	9
PS3	Indecent Exposure	2	0	0	1	0
PS4	Harassment	22	29	19	15	12
Total Alleged PREA Incidents		197	183	158	151	123

Yearly Allegation Comparison Reports 2018-2023

	PREA Codes	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
PY1	Unwanted Penetration	7	8	22	15	8	9
PY2	Unwanted Touching (Non-	23	37	55	40	72	52
PY3	Harassment	56	30	27	24	38	26
PS1	Sexual Penetration	6	0	6	11	6	4
PS2	Non-Penetration (Touching)	13	5	4	5	10	13
PS3	Indecent Exposure	0	0	1	0	0	2
PS4	Harassment	12	7	7	20	14	5
Total Alleged PREA Incidents		117	183	122	115	148	111

2023 DOJ Survey of Sexual Violence (SSV-5) General Information: Section #1 Data Summary

Q1	On December 31, 2023, how many facilities operated by GA DJJ held juvenile offenders charged with or court-adjudicated for an offense? Note: Data includes only state-operated secure facilities (RYDCs & YDCs)	25
Q2A	On December 31, 2023, the total number of male residents.	936
Q2B	On December 31, 2023, the total number of female residents.	141
Q2C	On December 31, 2023, the total number of residents held in the 25 reported facilities	1077
Q3A	On December 31, 2023, the total number of residents aged under 18 or younger	974
Q3B	On December 31, 2023, the total number of residents aged 18 to 20	103
Q3C	On December 31, 2023, the total number of residents aged over 20 or older	0
Q4A	On December 31, 2023, the total number of residents admitted Note: Distinct count of juvenile admissions between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023	4956
Q4B	On December 31, 2023, the total number of residents discharged Note: Distinct count of juvenile releases between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023	5004

2023 DOJ Survey of Sexual Violence Results (SSV-5) Based On Secure Facilities Only

Incident Type	Number Reported
Sexual Abuse	16
Sexual Harassment	8
Staff Sexual Abuse	2
Staff Sexual Harassment	1
Total	27

2023 DOJ Survey of Sexual Violence Results (SSV-5) Based on Secure Facilities Only (90 allegations processed)

The Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice collects accurate, uniform data for every allegation of sexual abuse and harassment at state-operated juvenile facilities, privately operated secure facilities, and community programs. However, the 2023 data collection for the US Department of Justice Survey of Sexual Violence Report (SSV-5) requires data from only Georgia State-operated juvenile secure facilities (Regional Detention Centers (RYDC) and Youth Development Campuses (YDC)).

2023 PREA Audit Methodology

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003 mandates that Governors certify their respective states' full compliance with the standards outlined in 28 CFR Part 115, which became effective on August 20, 2012. These standards apply to state and local confinement facilities, including jails, prisons, community confinement facilities, lockups, and juvenile facilities.

All Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) facilities are classified as Juvenile Facilities, specifically Regional Youth Detention Centers (RYDC) and Youth Development Campuses (YDC). The agency operates 25 secure state-run facilities, all of which adhere to the PREA Juvenile Facility Standards.

The Georgia DJJ engaged US Department of Justice Certified Juvenile PREA Auditors to conduct the necessary PREA audits. Consequently, each DJJ secure facility was audited against the 43 required standards and over 350 provisions.

Georgia DJJ PREA Certification

Audit Year 1 of Cycle 3: Audit August 20, 2019 - August 19, 2020

State	Facility	Year	Cycle	Onsite Audit Schedule	Final Report Date	Disposition
GA	Bob Richards RYDC	2020	3	Feb. 26, 2020	April 21, 2020	Compliant
GA	Claxton RYDC	2020	3	Aug. 3-4, 2020	Aug. 30, 2020	Compliant
GA	Crisp RYDC	2020	3	March 4-5, 2020	May 19, 2020	Compliant
GA	Elbert Shaw RYDC	2020	3	Feb. 24-25, 2020	April 9, 2020	Compliant
GA	Macon YDC	2020	3	Feb. 10-11, 2020	May 19, 2020	Compliant
GA	Macon RYDC	2020	3	Feb. 12-13, 2020	April 2, 2020	Compliant
GA	Milledgeville YDC	2020	3	Aug. 5-6, 2020	Aug. 31, 2020	Compliant
GA	Muscogee YDC	2020	3	March 2-3, 2020	April 21, 2020	Compliant

Audit Year 2 of Cycle 3: Audit August 20, 2020 - August 19, 2021

State	Facility	Year	Cycle	Onsite Audit Schedule	Final Report Date	Disposition
GA	Atlanta YDC (currently housed at Metro RYDC)	2021	3	NA	NA	NA
GA	Wilkes RYDC	2021	3	March 8-9, 2021	July 28, 2021	Compliant
GA	Augusta RYDC	2021	3	March 10-11, 2021	May 4, 2021	Compliant
GA	Waycross RYDC	2021	3	March 22-23, 2021	May 12, 2021	Compliant
GA	Savannah RYDC	2021	3	March 24-25, 2021	May 13, 2021	Compliant
GA	Rockdale RYDC	2021	3	April 5-6, 2021	May 19, 2021	Compliant
GA	DeKalb RYDC	2021	3	April 7-8, 2021	Aug. 18, 2021	Compliant
GA	Marietta RYDC	2021	3	April 19-20, 2021	Aug. 18, 2021	Compliant
GA	Cadwell RYDC	2021	3	April 21-22, 2021	Aug. 18, 2021	Compliant

Audit Year 3 of Cycle 3: Audit August 20, 2021 - August 19, 2022

State	Facility	Year	Cycle	Onsite Audit Schedule	Final Report Date	Disposition
GA	Sumter YDC (Closed)	2022	3	NA	NA	NA
GA	Atlanta YDC	2022	3	April 20, 2022	Aug. 17, 2022	Compliant
GA	Eastman YDC	2022	3	January 24, 2022	July 13, 2022	Compliant
GA	Loftiss RYDC	2022	3	January 26, 2022	July 11, 2022	Compliant
GA	Aaron Cohn RYDC	2022	3	February 7, 2022	July 11, 2022	Compliant
GA	Terrell RYDC	2022	3	February 9, 2022	Aug. 4, 2022	Compliant
GA	Martha Glaze RYDC	2022	3	February 21, 2022	July 11, 2022	Compliant
GA	Metro RYDC	2022	3	February 24, 2022	July 13, 2022	Compliant
GA	Gainesville RYDC	2022	3	March 22, 2022	Aug. 16, 2022	Compliant
GA	Augusta RYDC	2022	3	March 2, 2022	Aug. 16, 2022	Compliant

Audit Year 1 of Cycle 4: Audit August 20, 2022 - August 19, 2023

State	Facility	Year	Cycle	On-Site Audit Schedule Date & Month	Final Report Date	Disposition
GA	Bob Richards Regional Detention Center	2023	4	Feb. 20, 2023	May 16, 2023	Compliant
GA	Claxton Regional Detention Center	2023	4	March 20, 2023	June 20, 2023	Compliant
GA	Crisp Regional Detention Center	2023	4	Feb. 27-28, 2023	April 12, 2023	Compliant
GA	Elbert Shaw Regional Detention Center	2023	4	Feb. 21, 2023	March 25, 2023	Compliant
GA	Macon Youth Detention Center	2023	4	Feb. 13-15, 2023	March 30, 2023	Compliant
GA	Macon Regional Detention Center	2023	4	Feb. 15-17, 2023	April 6, 2023	Compliant
GA	Milledgeville Development Campus	2023	4	Jan. 25, 2023	April 19, 2023	Compliant
GA	Muscogee Youth Development Campus	2023	4	Jan. 17-18, 2023	April 21, 2023	Compliant
GA	Four Seasons of Love Youth Home Community Program	2023	4	April 12-13, 2023	Sept. 12, 2023	Compliant
GA	Living Our Lives Community Living Dublin (Community Program)	2023	4	April 10, 2023	July 7, 2023	Compliant

Audit Year 2 of Cycle 4: Audit August 20, 2023 - August 19, 2024

State	Facility	Year	Cycle	On-Site Audit Schedule Date & Month	Final Report Date	Disposition
GA	Atlanta Youth Development Campus	2024	4	Jan.15 - Jan.16, 2024	Feb. 29, 2024	Compliant
GA	Augusta Regional Detention Center	2024	4	Jan. 8 - Jan. 9, 2024	Feb. 23, 2024	Compliant
GA	Cadwell Regional Detention Center	2024	4	April 30 - May 1, 2024	Nov. 14, 2024	Compliant
GA	Dekalb Regional Detention Center	2024	4	April 1- April 2, 2024	Oct. 25, 2024	Compliant
GA	Marietta Regional Detention Center	2024	4	Jan.16 - Jan.17, 2024	May 20, 2024	Compliant
GA	Rockdale Regional Detention Center	2024	4	April 3 - April 4, 2024	Oct. 25, 2024	Compliant
GA	Savannah Regional Detention Center	2024	4	April 8 - April 9, 2024	Oct. 29, 2024	Compliant
GA	Waycross Regional Detention Center	2024	4	Feb. 5 - Feb. 6, 2024	Oct. 6, 2024	Compliant
GA	Wilkes Regional Detention Center	2024	4	Jan.10 - Jan.11, 2024	Feb. 26, 2024	Compliant
GA	Anchor of Hope House	2024	4	April 29, 2024	June 14, 2024	Compliant
GA	Chenault Youth Services Program	2024	4	Oct. 24, 2023	Nov. 14, 2023	Compliant
GA	Gentle Loving Care Center Residential Treatment Program	2024	4	Oct. 25 - 26, 2023	Dec. 8, 2023	Compliant
GA	Right Path Oasis Children's Group Home	2024	4	May 15, 2024	June 28, 2024	Compliant

Audit Year 3 of Cycle 4: Audit August 20, 2024 - August 19, 2025

State	Facility	Year	Cycle	On-Site Audit Schedule Month
GA	Eastman Youth Development Campus	2025	4	Jan. 28-29, 2025
GA	Loftiss Regional Detention Center	2025	4	Feb. 11-12, 2025
GA	Aaron Cohn Regional Detention Center	2025	4	April 15-16, 2025
GA	Terrell Regional Detention Center	2025	4	Feb. 12-13, 2025
GA	Martha K. Glaze Regional Detention Center	2025	4	March 4-5, 2025
GA	Metro Regional Detention Center	2025	4	March 5-6, 2025
GA	Gainesville Regional Detention Center	2025	4	Jan. 7-8, 2025
GA	Augusta Youth Development Campus	2025	4	March 25-26, 2025

Audit Year 1 of Cycle 5: Audit August 20, 2025 - August 19, 2026

State	Facility	Year	Cycle	On-Site Audit Schedule Month
GA	Bob Richards Regional Detention Center	2026	5	Feb. 2026
GA	Claxton Regional Detention Center	2026	5	March 2026
GA	Crisp Regional Detention Center	2026	5	Feb. 2026
GA	Elbert Shaw Detention Center	2026	5	Feb. 2026
GA	Macon Youth Development Campus	2026	5	Feb. 2026
GA	Milledgeville Development Campus	2026	5	Feb. 2026
GA	Muscogee Youth Development Campus	2026	5	Jan. 2026
GA	Muscogee Youth Development Campus	2026	5	Jan. 2026

Audit Year 2 of Cycle 5: Audit August 20, 2026 – August 19, 2027

State	Facility	Year	Cycle	On-Site Audit Schedule Month	Final Report Date
GA	Wilkes Regional Detention Center	2027	5	Jan. 2027	NA
GA	Augusta Regional Detention Center	2027	5	Jan. 2027	NA
GA	Waycross Regional Detention Center	2027	5	Feb. 2027	NA
GA	Savannah Regional Detention Center	2027	5	April 2027	NA
GA	Rockdale Regional Detention Center	2027	5	April 2027	NA
GA	DeKalb Regional Detention Center	2027	5	April 2027	NA
GA	Marietta Regional Detention Center	2027	5	Jan. 2027	NA
GA	Cadwell Regional Detention Center	2027	5	April 2027	NA
GA	Atlanta Youth Development Campus	2027	5	Jan. 2027	NA
GA	Anchor of Hope House	2027	5	April 2027	NA
GA	Chenault Youth Services Program	2027	5	Oct. 2026	NA
GA	Gentle Loving Care Center Residential Treatment Program	2027	5	Oct. 2026	NA
GA	Right Path Oasis Children's Group Home	2027	5	May 2027	NA

Corrective Actions and Agency Response

Exit briefings were conducted with the Facility Director, Assistant Director, PREA Coordinator, PREA Compliance Specialist, and the PREA Compliance Manager. During these briefings, the auditor reviewed the findings of the onsite audit. The auditor identified several areas of concern and requested additional supporting documentation related to background checks, prior institutional employer checks, and sexual abuse incident team meetings.

There were several standards that required corrective action over multiple facilities.

Standard 115.313: Supervision and Monitoring (Section C)

- Requirement: Each secure juvenile facility is required to maintain a minimum staff-to-resident ratio of 1:8 during waking hours and 1:16 during sleeping hours. Exceptions are allowed only during limited and discrete exigent circumstances, which must be fully documented. Only security staff are included in these ratios. Facilities that were not already obligated by law, regulation, or judicial consent decree to meet these staffing ratios by the date of this final rule's publication were given until October 1, 2017, to achieve compliance. The auditor identified concerns regarding the agency's ability to meet the 1:8 and 1:16 staffing ratios.
- Concern: Some facilities were not consistently meeting the 1:8 ratio during waking hours and the 1:16 ratio during sleep hours.
- Corrective Action: Monitor ratios daily by leadership based on population numbers and staffing circumstances. Standard 115.313: The agency utilized guidance from the National PREA Resource Center's Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) dated July 9, 2013, to determine who qualifies as "security staff" for the minimum staffing ratio standard for secure juvenile facilities. According to this guidance, only direct-care staff are included in the mandatory minimum ratios. However, direct-care staff supervisors may be counted if they are primarily or exclusively assigned to supervise residents. Additionally, other personnel whose duties involve supervising and controlling residents for part of the day may count towards these ratios while actively managing and controlling residents, provided they have received appropriate training. This training generally includes instruction on the supervision and control of delinquent youth, verbal de-escalation techniques, age-appropriate defensive tactics, and crisis intervention.

Standard 115.317: Hiring and Promotion Decisions (Section C)

- Requirement: Agency policy mandates that, in compliance with Federal, State, and local laws, the agency must make its best efforts to contact all previous institutional employers before hiring any new employees who may have contact with residents. This process aims to gather information on any substantiated allegations of sexual abuse or any resignations that occurred during a pending investigation of an allegation of sexual abuse.
- Concern: Although the agency policy complies with this standard, an interview with HR Tech 2 and a review of personnel files revealed that the facility's practice did not consistently include obtaining information on substantiated allegations of sexual abuse or resignations during a pending investigation of an allegation of sexual abuse from prior institutional employers.
- Corrective Action: Implement measures to ensure this information is obtained consistently. Implemented measures have included additional training with HR staff on all levels. The Agency PREA Coordinator and PREA Compliance Specialist conducted a training session with facility HR staff via conference call to emphasize the importance of obtaining information on substantiated allegations of sexual abuse or resignations during a pending investigation of an allegation of sexual abuse from prior institutional employers.

Standard 115.317: Hiring and Promotion Decisions (Section E)

- Requirement: The agency must conduct criminal background records checks at least every five years for current employees and contractors who may have contact with residents or have a system in place to capture such information.
- Concern: While the agency policy aligns with this standard, a review of staff and contractor personnel files for the past 12 months revealed that five-year background checks were not completed consistently.
- Corrective Action: Ensure that background checks are conducted consistently every five years. Additional training and measures were implemented with the Criminal History Unit to better manage the time frames for completing the 5-year background checks. To ensure compliance with this standard, the agency implemented a process in which the Criminal History Unit, in collaboration with the Human Resources Office, will conduct a five-year background check for all employees and contractors on a five-year cycle starting in the first quarter of 2025. The subsequent five-year cycle will include all employees and contractors employed by the agency during that period.
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Standard 115.341: Screening for Risk of Sexual Victimization and Abusiveness (Section A)

- Requirement: The agency's policy mandates screening upon admission to a facility or transfer to another facility for risk of sexual abuse victimization or sexual abusiveness towards other residents.
- Concern: Some audited facilities did not complete the PREA Screening Assessment within 72 hours of intake.
- Corrective Action: Ensure that all facilities complete the PREA Screening Assessment within the required timeframe. Additional training and monitoring tools have been implemented to regularly assess progress. A report was created in JTS to notify facility leadership of any pending or outstanding PREA Screening Assessments. The agency established a requirement that all facilities must have more than one staff member trained to complete the PREA Screening Assessments. This will be monitored by the facility PREA Compliance Manager.

Standard 115.386: Sexual Abuse Incident Reviews (Sections A and B)

- Requirement: The facility must conduct a sexual abuse incident review at the conclusion of every sexual abuse investigation, including cases where the allegation is not substantiated, unless the allegation is determined to be unfounded. This review should occur within 30 days of the investigation's conclusion.
- Concern: Some audited facilities were not conducting incident team reviews at the conclusion of investigations and did not complete reviews within 30 days of the investigation's conclusion.
- Corrective Action: Ensure that incident reviews are conducted at the conclusion of investigations and within the required 30-day period. Additional measures have been implemented to involve facility leadership. The agency PREA Compliance Specialist provided training to the PREA Compliance Managers to ensure that incident team reviews are completed within 30 days of concluding an investigation. Additionally, the PREA Compliance Specialist has implemented calendar reminders to ensure timely completion of required documentation.

***In addition to the above corrective action measures the Department has implemented a process to send out monthly quick tips to the facility and community residential leadership on implementation of the PREA standards.

PREA Grant

The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) was awarded a Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Grant, which provides funding for several key initiatives:

- 115.312: Contracting with Other Entities for the Confinement of Residents
 - Activity: Fund audits for six non-secure contracted residential sites. Status: Completed.
 - Activity: Hire a consultant to assist the contracted residential sites with PREA Audits and conduct monitoring and training. Status: Completed consultation for audit preparedness. Status: In progress of on-going monitoring and additional training on the implementation of PREA standards.
- 115.315: Limits to Cross-Gender Viewing and Searches
 - Activity: Engage a consultant to transform the existing Cross-Gender and Transgender search training into an interactive e-learning module for conducting searches of juvenile residents, including both cross-gender and transgender searches. Status: In Progress
- 115.331: Employee Training
 - Activity: Train all employees who may have contact with residents on their responsibilities under agency policies for preventing, detecting, reporting, and responding to sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Status: In Progress
- 115.341: Screening for Risk of Victimization and Abusiveness
 - Activity: Hire a consultant to convert the Intake training content into an e-learning module. This training will educate staff on conducting the intake process, engaging youth to complete assessment tools, completing the assessments, and providing residents with PREA education. Status: In Progress.
 - **Activity:** Collaborate with subject matter experts from Advocacy Centers to address intake, screening, and classification processes. This will help identify potential sexual abuse victims and perpetrators, make informed housing, placement, and programming decisions, and prevent and address secondary trauma among agency and facility staff members through appropriate search techniques. Status: Competed.

Grant Period: 03/01/23 – 09/30/24 (Extended to 9/30/2025)

Award Amount: \$169,049.00

Conclusion

The Department of Juvenile Justice is dedicated to collaborating with federal, state, and local partners to reduce and eliminate sexual abuse and sexual harassment within its facilities. The agency is committed to actively working with federal and private experts to secure technical assistance and resources.

Additionally, the Department of Juvenile Justice will continue its efforts to develop and implement “Best Practices” within our processes and systems. Our goal is to improve sexual safety for Georgia’s youth in confinement and enhance the services provided to the youth in our care.

Publication Approval:

Standard 115.388 Provision “C”: The agency’s report shall be approved by the agency head and made readily available to the public through its website or, if it does not have one, through other means.

Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb,
Commissioner