



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

AVERY D. NILES, COMMISSIONER

A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Avery D. Niles, Commissioner

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DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

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Department of Juvenile Justice Honors Crime Victims during National Crime Victims' Rights Week in April

(Atlanta, GA) – “*Engaging Communities.. Empowering Victims..*” is the theme for National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) throughout the state and across the country this year. The State conducts an annual event and ceremony to honor Georgia's crime victims and to increase public awareness about the rights of victims everywhere. National Crime Victims' Rights Week will be celebrated Sunday, April 19th through Saturday the 25th, 2015.

“Thousands of Georgia families are affected every year by crime,” said Commissioner Avery D. Niles at the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice. “This weeklong observance is an important opportunity for all of us to pause and remember victims who have suffered as a result of crime. As we hold Georgia's most troubled youth accountable for their actions at DJJ, we can never lose sight of the victims of their crimes.”

Georgia's annual Crime Victims' Rights event and Open House are scheduled at the Department of Corrections' headquarters on Tuesday, April 14th. The ceremony will be held in Roberts Chapel at State Offices South at the Tift Campus in Forsyth, Georgia.

Victim advocates from a task force of eleven state agencies, including the Department of Juvenile Justice, are reaching out to Georgia's crime victims and family members of crime victims, to attend the annual ceremonies. “These eleven agencies work closely together as a taskforce all year 'round and formed the 'Multi-Agency Victim Services Partnership' on behalf of crime victims,” said Commissioner Niles.

The April 14th Open House is designed to help victims and the public learn more about important services offered by each participating state agency. DJJ Commissioner Niles said crime victims can also meet with Department of Juvenile Justice leadership and staff at the April event. “We urge crime victims to attend these events and take advantage of the services they offer,” the Commissioner said.

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The Department of Juvenile Justice will also have staff available at the Open House to provide information and help educate crime victims about their rights to access the juvenile justice process and referrals to community services for the following:

- Learn types of compensation programs available to violent crime victims
- Make an appointment with Georgia Crime Victims Compensation staff to discuss claim status or determine eligibility for additional benefits
- Learn to navigate websites for the Dept of Corrections and Board of Pardons and Paroles
- Learn how to submit Victim Impact Statements
- Receive current offender updates, including max release date, parole date and inmate incarceration
- Register to receive additional offender status notifications

"As victim advocates we're aware that about 50-percent of crimes go unreported and only a fraction of all victims may get the help they need," said Commissioner Niles. "So we continue to reach-out and provide victims with the fairness, dignity and respect they deserve."

If you or someone you know is a victim of a crime and would like to attend the event, contact Victim Services Director Latera Davis at the Department of Juvenile Justice Office at 1-866-922-6360 or by email at victimservices@djj.state.ga.us.

Latera Davis, Director

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About the Multi-State Agency Victim Services Partnership

The Multi-State Agency Victim Services Partnership is a group of state agencies committed to restoring Georgia crime victims' dignity, safety and well-being by providing leadership, guidance and information to victims and their families through communication, coordination and education. Currently the Multi-State Agency Victim Services Partnership consists of: Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts, Georgia Commission on Family Violence, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Department of Corrections, **Department of Juvenile Justice**, Department of Public Safety, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Governor's Office of Highway Safety, State Board of Pardons and Paroles, and Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia.



More than 50,000 youth are served each year by DJJ, including youth placed on probation, sentenced to short-term incarceration, or committed into custody by the Juvenile Courts. In addition to DJJ's Central Office in Decatur, there are more than 100 DJJ court office and facility locations throughout Georgia.

For information on DJJ Victim Services visit <http://www.djjnewsandviews.org/victimservices>. For more information about special programs at the Department of Juvenile Justice join us on the web at <http://www.djjnewsandviews.org/>.

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