



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF **JUVENILE JUSTICE**

AVERY D. NILES, COMMISSIONER

A MESSAGE FROM THE

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Avery D. Niles, Commissioner

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DJJ Commissioner Niles Appointed to Governor's Child Advocate Nominating Committee

(ATLANTA – GA) Governor Nathan Deal has appointed DJJ Commissioner Avery D. Niles to the nominating committee for the selection of Georgia's next head of the Office of the Child Advocate. The Governor's nominating committee is responsible for finding a deserving successor to current Child Advocate Tonya Boga, whose three year appointment is soon to be completed.

The nominating committee will recommend candidates for consideration for Georgia's Child Advocate position. Members will select from a pool of applicants who are qualified to perform duties for the Child Advocate job using their knowledge of the child welfare system, the Georgia legal system, and the juvenile justice system.

Commissioner Niles joins a statewide group of professionals who sit on the Child Advocacy nominating committee. The committee includes Cherokee County Juvenile Court Judge John Sumner, Carrollton Police Chief Joel Richards, Brunswick Judicial Circuit District Attorney Jackie Johnson, DHS Commissioner Keith Horton, Georgia COO Bart Gobel, and Department of Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities Commissioner Frank Berry.

The vision for the Georgia Office of the Child Advocate is to be the first place for those in government and the private sector to turn for advice, assistance, and aid using proven, evidence-based practices to assist the at-risk families and foster children of our state.

The Georgia Office of the Child Advocate works proactively to improve the way Georgia helps families in need. Commissioner Niles and members of the nominating committee hope that by working in partnership with other child-serving agencies and child advocates, the Georgia Office of the Child Advocate can avoid tragic outcomes rather than merely reacting to crises and tragedies.

DJJ congratulate Commissioner Niles for his appointment to this prestigious committee. For more information on the Georgia Office of the Child Advocate or the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice, visit them each on the web at <http://oca.georgia.gov> and <http://www.djj.state.ga.us> respectively.

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