



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

AVERY D. NILES, COMMISSIONER

A MESSAGE FROM THE
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Avery D. Niles, Commissioner

Scott Mall
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MEDIA ADVISORY
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MEDIA ADVISORY: New DJJ Regional Youth Facility Opens in Terrell County
-Community Leaders to Attend Ribbon-Cutting-

(Dawson, GA) – Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Commissioner Avery D. Niles is pleased to announce the upcoming ribbon-cutting ceremony for the state juvenile justice system's new Terrell County Regional Youth Detention Center (RYDC) in Dawson, Georgia. ***News media is invited to attend and tour the facility.***

WHAT: Official opening of DJJ's new Terrell County Regional Youth Detention Center (RYDC)

WHERE: Terrell County – 1666 Albany Highway in Dawson, Georgia 39842-8004
(Off State Route 520 East)

WHEN: **Tuesday, October 4th, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.**

WHO: Commissioner Avery D. Niles will officiate. DJJ Leadership will attend.

INVITEES: State Representative Gerald Greene, State Senator Freddie Powell Sims and other community leaders are scheduled to attend and participate in the program.

PARKING: On-site parking will be provided for attendees.

CAMERAS: News photography/videography will be allowed inside the secure facility for this special event.

SPECIAL NOTE: Local news media is encouraged to attend this unique opportunity for a special access tour of the RYDC before the youth detention facility is occupied.

To protect the identity and privacy of Georgia's juvenile offenders all camera access is restricted after regular DJJ operations begin.

The ribbon-cutting at the Terrell County RYDC marks a DJJ milestone in Southwest Georgia. Totally repurposed from a former Department of Corrections (DOC) adult probation facility, the new Terrell County RYDC is now a technology standard-bearer for DJJ.

The Terrell County RYDC blueprint demonstrates DJJ's added emphasis on education, featuring an expanded educational wing with computer labs and state-of-the-art Promethean interactive learning boards. The construction design also incorporates enhanced security measures including closed-circuit television surveillance, steel cell construction and touch-screen security control panels as part of DJJ's mission to ensure public safety. The secure facility will be operational by the end of October 2016.

To learn more about available employment opportunities with the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice at the new Terrell County RYDC and throughout Georgia go to www.djjcareers.org. For more information on Juvenile Justice Reform in Georgia, please visit www.djjnewsandviews.org/juvenilejusticereform.

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The Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is a multi-faceted agency that serves the needs of this state's young offenders up to the age of 21. The Department employs more than 4,000 men and women at 26 secure facilities and 92 community services offices throughout the state to effect justice and redirect the young lives in the agency's care.

Including those who are placed on probation, more than 50,000 youths are diverted each year to evidence-based community programs, sentenced to short-term incarceration or committed to the Department's long-term custody by the Juvenile Courts. It is the duty of the DJJ Professional Corrections Staff to preserve public safety and safeguard the citizens of Georgia as well as protect the victims of crimes so that they can also rebuild their lives.

At the same time, DJJ holds juvenile offenders accountable for their delinquent conduct by providing them with medical and psychological treatment so the youth can take responsibility for their actions through probation, supervision and secure detention. Specialized education and programs are designed to equip them with the social, intellectual and emotional tools they will need to achieve their successful reentry and reintegration into their former community, workplace and neighborhood settings as more productive and law-abiding citizens.