

L. Gale Buckner, Commissioner

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Office of Communications



DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

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**STATEMENT FROM DJJ COMMISSIONER L. GALE BUCKNER CONCERNING
ARREST OF CONTRACT EMPLOYEE AT MILAN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CAMPUS**

Around 4:30 p.m. today, Alicia Clouse, a juvenile corrections officer who works at a privately-owned secure facility in Milan, was arrested by the Telfair County Sheriff's Office in conjunction with an investigation by the DJJ Office of Investigations. Ms. Clouse has been charged with Sexual Assault Against a Person in Custody (§ 16-6-5.1) and Giving Items of Contraband to an Inmate (§42-5-18). If convicted, she faces up to 30 years in prison. Telfair County District Attorney Timothy Vaughn will handle the matter. After receiving a tip, DJJ internal investigators investigated allegations related to Clouse and referred the findings to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

DJJ takes seriously its responsibility to both protect the public and to operate facilities and programs that are constitutionally safe for both youth and staff. DJJ will not tolerate violations of policy and procedures by staff or youth that jeopardize safety or an individual's well-being. Should there be any evidence of staff or youth misconduct or criminal activity, DJJ will take all appropriate measures, including referrals for criminal prosecution.

DJJ's mission is to protect and serve the citizens of Georgia by holding young offenders accountable for their actions through the delivery of services and sanctions in appropriate settings and by supporting youth in their communities to become productive and law-abiding citizens. Each day, at 26 facilities and 92 court services offices throughout the state, more than 4,000 DJJ employees work diligently to effect justice as well as redirect and shape the young lives in the agency's care so they can become contributing members of society. At the same time, DJJ seeks to protect the victims of crimes so that they can rebuild their lives.

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