



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Texas Juvenile Justice Department Investigation Findings

On August 1, 2024, the United States Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, along with United States Attorney's Offices in Texas, announced findings from an investigation of five secure facilities for children run by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

The five facilities include: Ron Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Complex, Giddings State School, Gainesville State School, McLennan County State Juvenile Correctional Facility, and Evins Regional Juvenile Center.

These findings reflect a pattern or practice of resistance to children's full enjoyment of their constitutional and federal statutory rights.

Now that the investigation is complete, we will work with Texas to fix the identified violations and implement change.

Questions? Concerns? Ideas for reform? Contact us at (866) 432-0438 or TX.Juveniles@usdoj.gov.

Findings include:

- **Protection from harm.** Children are often exposed to excessive physical and chemical force. They also spend prolonged periods of time in isolation under stark conditions and without access to adequate services. And they endure sexual abuse.
- **Mental health care.** Children do not receive adequate mental health assessments, treatment planning, and counseling. TJJD also fails to provide adequate substance use disorder treatment and treatment for children who engage in self-harm or have suicidal thoughts.
- **Special education.** Children with disabilities do not receive a free appropriate public education. Special education services are not individualized; fail to include specially designed instruction, behavioral supports, related services, and transition services; and are based on outdated evaluations.
- **Disability discrimination.** Children with disabilities do not receive reasonable modifications to complete programs required for release, prolonging their time in TJJD's custody or resulting in their transfer to adult prison. They also do not receive an equal opportunity to benefit from education.