



TEXAS
JUVENILE JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT

Statement from Camille Cain on the Arrest of an Employee at the McLennan County State Juvenile Correctional Facility

October 30, 2019

AUSTIN—Camille Cain, the Executive Director of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, issued this statement regarding the arrest of Jatavian Smith, a Youth Development Coach at the McLennan County State Juvenile Correctional Facility, in Mart:

“Shortly before midnight on Friday, October 25, 2019, TJJD received an allegation of potential criminal behavior against a staff member who works at the McLennan County State Juvenile Correctional Facility for an incident that had occurred the previous evening.

TJJD immediately suspended the employee, Jatavian Smith, without pay, and following an initial investigation, terminated his employment on Monday, October 28. This morning, TJJD’s Office of Inspector General arrested him for sexual assault. Smith, who is 22 years old and was hired by TJJD in June, was booked into the McLennan County Jail, and the case has been referred to the Special Prosecution Unit.

I am outraged by this allegation, and my heart breaks for the youth, who received immediate medical and clinical care. The safety of our youth is my highest priority, and I will not have that trust betrayed by rogue staff members. TJJD has zero tolerance for such behavior, and when such allegations occur, we will always act swiftly and pursue the highest possible penalties under the law.”

For additional information, contact Brian Sweany at brian.sweany@tjjd.texas.gov or 512.490.7028.