



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC INFORMATION INDICTMENT NOTIFICATION

On October 9, 2019, Former T.J.J.D. Youth Development Coach Jennifer Welch was indicted by the McLennan County Grand Jury for two counts of the offense of Official Oppression. Official Oppression is a Class “A” Misdemeanor under Texas Penal Code Section 39.03 which if convicted is punishable by confinement in the McLennan County Jail for a term not to exceed one year and/or a fine up to \$4,000 per count. These indictments stemmed from an investigation conducted by the Office of Inspector General that involved allegations of Welch failing to act to protect the welfare of two youth offenders as they were being severely assaulted by other offenders in the McLennan County State Juvenile Correctional Facility. These cases will be prosecuted by the Special Prosecution Unit. Welch was taken into custody by OIG investigators without incident on October 11, 2019 and booked into the Falls County Jail.

The Office of the Inspector General is statutorily responsible to investigate criminal allegations involving T.J.J.D youth, employees, contractors, volunteers, or at T.J.J.D. or contact facilities. Investigators with the OIG also conduct abuse, neglect, and exploitation investigations at contract and county juvenile facilities and programs on behalf of the Department. Anyone can report allegations of misconduct to the Incident Reporting Center by completing an on-line complaint form found on the OIG website <http://www.tjjd.texas.gov/OIG/index.aspx>, or by emailing a complaint to TJJD.IRC@tjjd.texas.gov, or finally by calling a 24 hour a day toll free hotline 1-866-477-8354.

