



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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State Hires Veteran FBI Agent As Juvenile Corrections Monitor April 11, 2000

(Pierre) – John J. Ellis, a long-time special agent for the FBI, began work Monday at the South Dakota Department of Human Services, where he will independently monitor the state's juvenile corrections system.

Ellis, 55, was an FBI agent for 25 years and retired in 1994. His duties included background investigations and general criminal investigations, with an emphasis on homicide, assault, child sexual and physical abuse, Civil Rights violations, embezzlements, bank frauds and other financial crimes.

He has taught at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, as well as at national, state and tribal conferences, on issues of child abuse, both physical and sexual.

Ellis was the Rosebud Sioux Tribe police department's chief criminal investigator and program administrator 1995 to 1997. Since then, he has been self-employed in teaching, consulting and investigation work.

He and his family have lived in Pierre the past 24 years.

The monitor position was approved by the South Dakota Legislature this year. Funding for the position officially starts July 1, but Gov. Bill Janklow said he directed the Department of Human Services to find temporary funding in its current budget to cover the position through June 30.

"There's no reason to wait until July to get moving on this," Janklow said. "I told him if there is a problem or a problem developing, we want to hear about it right away."