



Office of the Attorney General of Guam

590 S. Marine Corps Dr., Ste. 901, Tamuning, Guam 96913



Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson
Attorney General
Phone: (671) 475-3324
ext. 5015/ 5030
Fax: 477-4703
law@guamag.org

Jacqueline Z. Cruz
Chief of Staff
Administration
ext. 5010
jzcruz@guamag.org

Phillip J. Tydingco
Chief Prosecutor
Prosecution
ext. 2410
ptydingco@guamag.org

Karl P. Espaldon
Deputy AG
Solicitors
ext. 3115
kespaldon@guamag.org

Kenneth D. Orcutt
Deputy AG
Litigation
ext. 3225
korcutt@guamag.org

Fred S. Nishihira
Deputy AG
Consumer Protection
ext. 3250
fnishihira@guamag.org

Rebecca M. Perez
Deputy AG
Child Support
ext. 1610
rebecca.perez@guamcse.net

Carol M. Hinkle-Sanchez
Deputy AG
Juvenile
ext. 4040
csanchez@guamag.org

Pauline I. Untalan
Administrator
**Victim Service Center
& Notary Unit**
ext. 5030
puntalan@guamag.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Twenty-Five-Year-Old Consent Decree Case Against Department of Corrections Dismissed by the U.S. District Court of Guam

Today, the District Court of Guam granted the joint motion of the United States and the Government of Guam to dismiss the 1991 Department of Correction's Consent Decree to remedy Constitutional violations occurring at the Department of Corrections (DOC) by fulfilling the final issues of inmate and detainee medical, dental, and behavioral health care, and the security locking system.

The DOC Blue-Ribbon Committee, chaired by Lt. Governor Ray Tenorio and the Attorney General effectuated a transformational shift in DOC's health care practices in the last two (2) years. DOC has implemented national and correctional health care standards, hired and thoroughly trained necessary personnel, established infrastructure for DOC outpatient clinic's future success, and created and implemented compliant written policies. As for the remaining work on DOC's locking-video mechanism system, this will be completed by December 2017.

The Territory's diligent work in this case comes from the brilliant work of health care professional from the Guam Memorial Hospital, the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, the Department of Public Health & Social Services, and from off-island experts from the University of Connecticut. Procurement of a security locking-video system was guided by the Department of Public Works, and consultants from our University of Guam. Legislation has been introduced to insure the efforts of all individuals involved to conclude this case will continue unabridged into the future.

Anyone who has touched this case should be proud it is now closed, and while it should never have taken this long, what the Government of Guam has accomplished in the past two (2) years to resolve the remaining issues in this decades-old court order, is nothing short of remarkable.

—General Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson