

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

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## Technical Assistance Memorandum

**To:** All Sheriffs and Jail Administrators  
**From:** Brandon Wood, Executive Director *BW*  
**Re:** Transfer of Inmates to TDCJ/Other Jails

In the past week, Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) officials have notified us that two dialysis inmates from separate counties were sent to TDCJ facilities without prior notification. As a result, one inmate had to be immediately hospitalized in a private hospital because TDCJ was not prepared for the inmate and did not have an available dialysis unit.

This memo serves as a reminder that facilities sending inmates to other facilities, other jails or TDCJ, have the duty and responsibility to notify and coordinate the care of inmates with serious medical or mental impairments with receiving facilities. In addition, Minimum Jail Standard 273.4 (c) requires that the Texas Uniform Health Status Update form shall be completed and forwarded to receiving criminal justice agencies at the time an inmate is transferred or released from your custody.

For TDCJ inmates who need specialized care, sending facilities should contact TDCJ's Office of Health Services Liaison at 936-437-3589 prior to transfer. Contact the Health Services Liaison to coordinate intake of inmates with the following conditions:

- Dialysis needs;
- Severe mobility impairment, especially wheelchair-dependence. The mobility aid (crutches, cane, walker or wheelchair) must accompany the offender to TDCJ;
- Blindness or deafness;
- Need for supplemental oxygen (even occasionally);
- Pregnancy with a due date of less than 30 days or a complicated pregnancy;
- Hospitalization or current housing in the jail's infirmary;
- Active infectious diseases (tuberculosis, chicken pox, shingles, mumps, end-stage HIV/AIDS);
- Inability to perform **any or all** activities of daily living (i.e., bathing, dressing, feeding, remembering to take medications, etc.);
- Have a diagnosis of dementia, Alzheimer's disease or mental retardation; or,
- Acute mental illness (i.e., expressing suicidal tendencies or thoughts of suicide).

Please review this memo with applicable personnel, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 512-463-5505.

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### Mission Statement

To empower local government to provide safe, secure and suitable local jail facilities through proper rules and procedures while promoting innovative programs and ideas. The Commission on Jail Standards welcomes all suggestions and will promptly respond to all complaints directed against the agency or any facilities under its purview.