

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Brandon S. Wood



P.O. Box 12985
Austin, Texas 78711
Voice: (512) 463-5505
Fax: (512) 463-3185
Agency Website: <http://www.tcjs.state.tx.us>
E-mail Address: brandon.wood@tcjs.state.tx.us

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Sheriffs and Jail Administrators
FROM: Brandon S. Wood, Executive Director
RE: Health Services Plan Change Instructions

At the last quarterly commission meeting, as a result of changes to Texas law, commissioners voted to add language to the below minimum jail standard 273.2 (5) Health Services Plan regarding the use of restraints during labor, delivery and recovery for known pregnant inmates. Therefore, counties will need to update their Health Services Plan to reflect the additional language.

On your letterhead, please address the following changes to standards and submit to the Commission for review as soon as possible. If approved, this will be attached as an addendum to your Health Services Plan currently on file for your facility. Please submit **ONLY** this addendum. Enclosed is a sample plan that you may wish to use as guide for your addendum.

273.2 (5) provide procedures for medical, mental, nutritional requirements, special housing, appropriate work assignments, and **the documented use of restraints during labor, delivery and recovery for known pregnant inmates;**

The Commissioner's also voted to add language to 273.6 (6) Restraints, which outlines the required information when restraints are utilized on a pregnant inmate in active labor, delivery or recovery. However, you are **not** required to submit a separate restraints policy.

273.6 (6) **Documentation of use of restraints during labor, delivery and recovery for known pregnant inmates shall include, but not be limited to the following: the events leading up to the need for restraints, the time the restraints were applied, the justification for their use, observations of the inmate's behavior and condition and the time the restraints were removed.**

Please inform all applicable staff of these changes to standards.

Judge Donna S. Klaeger, Burnet, Chair
Stanley D. Egger, Abilene, Vice Chair
Irene A. Armendariz, El Paso

Allan D. Cain, Carthage
Jerry W. Lowry, New Caney
Larry S. May, Sweetwater

Sheriff Gary Painter, Midland
Dr. Michael M. Seale, M.D., Houston
Sheriff Tam Terry, Panhandle

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.



Health Services Plan Addendum: Pregnant Inmates

Pregnant Inmates

The purpose of this plan is to establish procedures for the care of inmates found to be or known to be pregnant to ensure access to medical and mental services.

1. Medical Services

Female inmates will be interviewed and assessed during the booking process to identify possible pregnancy; inmates may be tested to confirm the pregnancy. Pregnant inmates will be referred to a doctor. Prenatal care and checkups will be conducted as directed by the doctor. Pregnant inmates will also have access to regular sick call by submitting a written request.

2. Mental Health

Known pregnant inmates may request mental health services by submitting a written request for services to jail staff. A magistrate will be notified in writing or by electronic notice within 72 hours if a pregnant inmate is suspected to have mental illness or mental retardation.

3. Nutritional Requirements

Pregnant inmates will be provided an adequate diet as directed by doctor's orders.

4. Special Housing

Pregnant inmates will be housed according to their classification custody level. Inmates with special needs will be referred to a doctor for evaluation. Pregnant inmates may be housed in medical separation if recommended by doctor's orders.

5. Work Assignments

Pregnant inmate work assignments will be determined with regard to term of pregnancy, current physical condition, and medical evaluation. Under no circumstances will work assignments for pregnant inmates involve activity that would cause physical harm or injury.

6. Restraints

Documentation of use of restraints on known pregnant inmates during labor, delivery and recovery shall include, but not be limited to, the following: the events leading up to the need for restraints, the time the restraints were applied, the justification for their use, observations of the inmate's behavior and condition, and the time the restraints were removed.