

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MEMORANDUM

TO: All Sheriff's and Jail Administrators
FROM: Brandon Wood, Executive Director
RE: Transfer of Inmates to TDCJ/Other Jails – Medical Records
DATE: September 27, 2016

Recently, the Commission was contacted by the State Hospital Division regarding inmates arriving at Rusk State Hospital with little or NO medical information included. Further exacerbating the situation is that several of these inmates had to be medically stabilized before any mental health treatment could begin. I cannot stress enough the importance of ensuring that inmates transferred to a state hospital arrive with complete and up to date medical records. Also, if an inmate that is being transferred has extensive medical issues, it is vital that the state hospital receiving that inmate is apprised of their condition before arrival. This allows them to coordinate the medical care that may be necessary before initiating competency restoration. The cases provided to us for review, while representing the worst examples, do demonstrate that this continues to be a problem. While I understand the challenges that counties face when interacting with these inmates, failing to pass along this information can have a domino effect as it needlessly ties up a slot within a system that is already operating without adequate space to meet the needs of Texas County Jails.

I have included the previous Technical Assistance Memo that was issued in April 2013. The information contained in that TA Memo is still considered appropriate, and I urge each of you to discuss it with your medical provider.

REF: (Attachment) T.A. Memorandum, April 19, 2013– Transfer of Inmates to TDCJ/Other Jails

Stanley D. Egger, Abilene, Vice Chair
Irene A. Armendariz, Austin
Jerry W. Lowry, New Caney

Sheriff Dennis D. Wilson, Groesbeck
Sheriff Gary Painter, Midland

Larry S. May, Sweetwater
Allan D. Cain, Carthage

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April 19, 2013

Technical Assistance Memorandum

To: All Sheriffs and Jail Administrators
From: Brandon Wood, Executive Director 
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.

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.