

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MEMORANDUM

To: All Sheriffs and Jail Administrators
From: Brandon Wood, Executive Director 
Date: February 12, 2020
RE: Transfer of Inmates to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)

In the last week, Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) officials notified us that a pregnant inmate (40 weeks) was transferred to a TDCJ facility without prior notification. After the female was received by TDCJ, she had to be immediately taken to a hospital via ambulance where she gave birth.

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 and/or mental impairments with the receiving facility. 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 custody.

For TDCJ inmates who need specialized care, sending facilities **SHALL** 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:

- Pregnancy with a due date of less than 30 days or a complicated/high risk pregnancy;
- Severe mobility impairment, especially wheelchair-dependence. The mobility aid (crutches, cane, walker or wheelchair) must accompany the offender to TDCJ;
- Dialysis;
- Blindness or deafness;
- Need for supplemental oxygen (even occasionally);
- Hospitalization or currently housed 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 severe mental health conditions;
- Acute mental illness (i.e., expressing suicidal tendencies or thoughts of suicide).

Failure to comply with these requirements may result in the issuance of a notice of non-compliance.

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

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"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".

To empower local government to provide safe, secure and suitable local jail facilities through proper rules and procedures while promoting innovative programs and ideas