

Minutes

Meeting: Administrative Rules Advisory Committee
Location: Sheriff's Association of Texas
1601 IH 35
Austin, Texas
Time: 10:00 AM
Date: September 16, 2026

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Lee Johnson at 10:20 AM.

II. Roll Call of Committee Members

Sheriff Kelly Rowe	Emily Lopez
Sheriff Wayne Dicky	Lori Compton
Sheriff Scott Cass	Gary Pinkerton
Judge Curtis Parish	Caroline Crain
Sammy Farias	Krish Gundu

The Committee members present at the roll call were: Sheriff Rowe, Sheriff Cass, Sheriff Dicky, Emily Lopez, Sammy Farias, Judge Parrish, Lori Compton, Gary Pinkerton, Caroline Crain, and Krish Gundu. Staff members present were Executive Director Armstrong, Deputy Director Jouett, Inspector Gravitt, Assistant Director Holm, Gabriel Farley, and Richard Morgan. Assistant Attorney General Chona Abrogan was present as counsel.

Others Present

Kevin Homiak Lydia Leos	Dalila Reynoso
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III. **Reading and Approval of Minutes**

Sheriff Cass made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, seconded by Gary Pinkerton. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. **Public Comment**

- a. Kevin Homiak -Provided testimony on over-detention in county jails. He specified that his team has found no Texas statute that requires or authorizes sheriffs to wait for TDCJ approval to release an inmate when their sentence is

complete. Requested that TCJS adopt a minimum standard requiring that a person be released on the date their sentence is satisfied.

- b. Lydia Leos – Provided testimony regarding her son at the Bexar County Jail and her experience with his custodial death and the lack of notifications to her son’s family. Requested that TCJS adopt a common sense and humane family notification rule requiring next of kin to be notified and engaged during medical emergencies and at the end of life, so families can participate in care and have the chance for farewell and closure.
- c. Delila Reynoso – Provided testimony regarding over-detention and the use of county jails by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement to house inmates. Requested TCJS adopt a clear rule guiding jails on how to handle individuals with ICE Detainers so that jails comply with the 48-hour limit for housing in holding and ensure proper documentation of custody.

V. **Old Business**

a. **Guardianship rules §267.7 Release -**

b. Public Petition to Minimum Jail Standards

- i. **Marc Robinson – Family Medical Notifications:** Director Armstrong led discussion on the public petitions related to family medical notifications (see public comment by Lydia Leos on this agenda). Sheriff Dicky discussed how to define when an inmate’s condition should allow notifications. Sheriff Cass discussed and emphasized that jails already carry a heavy operational burden and need guidance that is practical, not purely aspirational. Director Armstrong advised that a workgroup would be created with Sheriff Dicky and Caroline Crain, Dr. Robinson, and TCJS staff to develop proposed language for this petition. No action taken.
- ii. **Audrey Nath – Seizure plan:** Rejected based on previous discussion. No action taken.
- iii. **Alirma Davis** – Director Armstrong and Lori Compton discussed the release process, how TDCJ processes inmates, and the specifics of how a sentence is calculated. Sheriff Dicky discussed the importance of specifying the scenario (i.e. parole in absentia, mandatory release, or other legal combinations affecting release) and suggested collecting specific case examples to understand the mechanism that is failing before developing a solution. Sheriff Rowe asked for the TCJS field inspectors and facilities to provide data and examples to understand where delays and over-detention are arising. Director Armstrong advised that commission staff would collaborate with

attorneys and SMEs, collect and review case examples, and make recommendations. No action taken.

iv. **Paula Keeth** – See “iii” above.

v. **Leroy Jones** – See “iii” above.

vi. **Ritu Sampige – Women’s health:** Director Armstrong advised that the Commission took no action on this petition but asked the Committee to review for a possible change to standards regarding undergarments. He provided information from the survey conducted by TCJS staff and advised that approximately 50% of jails who answered the survey provide undergarments. Sheriff Dicky advised that it seems like common sense to have undergarments be available for purchase, issued, or that the inmate be allowed to use their own undergarments. Director Armstrong planned a workgroup to develop proposal language. No action taken.

vii. **Lydia Leos – Medical notifications:** See i” above.

c. **Chapter 297 Compliance and Enforcement** – Director Armstrong advised that staff had two recommended changes. The first was 297.6 Notice of noncompliance, with the addition of allowing electronic communication of noncompliance notification. A motion to accept the recommendation was made by Krish Gundu and seconded by Sammy Farias. The motion passed unanimously.

The second change is to chapter §297.9 Other Commission Remedies, and recommended changes to require a county’s appearance before the commission after the receipt of a notice of noncompliance and is under enhanced enforcement. A motion to approve the recommendation was made by Krish Gundu and seconded by Sheriff Cass. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. **New Business**

a. **Bylaws** – Director Armstrong advised that the ARAC bylaws require review and revision this year, and directed members to review the bylaws and sign the attached “statement by members” and return to Commission staff. No action taken.

b. **Four year rule review Chapter 299 Variance Procedure Rules** – Director Armstrong advised that chapters 299, 300, and 301 would be on the agenda for review at the next ARAC meeting and asked members to review these chapters.

c. **Four year rule review Chapter 300 Fees** – See “b” above.

- d. **Four year rule review Chapter 301 Rules of Practice in Contested Cases –**
See “b” above
 - e. **Four Year Review** New Cycle – Commission staff advised that after the next meeting the four year review cycle will conclude for a time, and asked that ARAC members plan which rules they would like to review next. No action taken.
 - f. **Appointment of County Commissioner position:** Sheriff Rowe advised that member Sammy Farias would be retiring soon and asked for recommendations for his position. Sheriff Rowe thanked Sammy Farias for his service to the ARAC and TCJS.
- VII. **Date for Next Meeting**
- a. The next meeting of the Administrative Rules Advisory Committee will be held on October 8, 2026.
- VIII. **Adjourn**
- a. The meeting was adjourned with appropriate motion by Gary Pinkerton and seconded by Sheriff Cass. The motion passed unanimously.