OFFENDERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS WHO ARE RELEASING FROM TDCJ

**PURPOSE:** To ensure offenders releasing from TDCJ are transported in a manner that meets their current medical, physical and mental health needs.

**POLICY:** Offenders unable to ride a chain bus to a releasing facility due to a medical, physical or mental health need (i.e., late-trimester or complicated pregnancy, dialysis, inpatient placement, or wheelchair-dependence) shall have their transportation arrangements coordinated through the appropriate university release management office.

**PROCEDURE:**

I. TDCJ Field Services staff will notify the appropriate university release management office of any releasing offender who is an inpatient in a medical or mental health facility, lives in a sheltered-housing unit or has special transportation arrangements indicated on the Forvus HSIN screen.

II. The university release management office will request continuity of care information and the anticipated mode of transportation needed upon release from the facility provider.

III. Releasing offenders can travel by chain bus, ambulance, wheelchair van or automobile. Multi-Patient Vehicles (MPVs) can be used to transport an inpatient offender from the unit of assignment to the releasing facility, but cannot transport an offender from a releasing facility to his/her final release plan location.

IV. Upon the provider’s completion of the Special Needs Release document, a mainframe e-mail will be sent to the following departments advising the offender’s continuity of care issues and transportation needs:

   a. TDCJ Classification and Records Office (CRO, e-mail address CLASSMED);
   b. Individuals working in TDCJ Releasing Office as designated by the TDCJ CRO Deputy Director;
   c. Individuals working in the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI) as designated by TCOOMMI’s Director;
   d. Parole Division Placement and Release Division;
   e. The offender’s current unit of assignment; and
   f. The offender’s permanent unit of assignment (if applicable).

V. TCOOMMI staff will ensure the offender’s release plan addresses all continuity of care issues.
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Reference: ACA Performance Standard & Expected Practice 5-5F-4446 (ref. 3-4393) Final Release