



TEXAS PRISONS COMMUNITY ADVOCATES

NEWSLETTER



WE'RE BACK!

Hi folks! It's been a while but we are back on track and ready to bring you news, commentary, games, surveys, and suggestions on how your loved ones can assist you in resolving issues you may be having.

Summer is just around the bend, and while we hope it won't bring temperatures as hot as we experienced in the last two years, weather predictors tell us we may see record heat again if Texas doesn't get more rain. The Climate Prediction Center is currently predicting a hotter and drier summer than average for Texas but across much of the nation. Prepare yourselves as much as you can now!

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Once again, we're off to the races with the Texas legislative session. Unfortunately, we're also up against harmful, overly punitive bills, some of which could result in increased charges for people in the free world. TPCA is working closely with lawmakers to push forward key legislation while reorganizing our small, committed team of volunteers to increase our impact. We're also forming new partnerships to better support you and your families with real resources and advocacy. As always, we wish we could respond to every letter—we read as many as we can, and your words matter. While we can't always share everything happening on the outside in real-time, know that we're fighting for you on multiple fronts. We've included a few photos highlighting some of our outreach efforts as we gear up for another season of exposing what you're experiencing. Our "85 to Stay Alive" campaign is now reaching national audiences as a National Coalition.

It's Time to Uncover the Truth: What's Happening with the AC Lawsuit

Here's where things stand the AC lawsuit. Last summer, Judge Pitman publicly described one of TDCJ's temperature logs as a "fraudulent document." That statement confirms what many of you have been saying for years and raises serious concerns about TDCJ's honesty and internal practices.

Despite repeated court inquiries, TDCJ has refused to provide sufficient information. In response, our legal team filed a motion demanding transparency and accountability. Your loved ones can read the full motion and lawsuit transcripts on our website under.

As I was sending this newsletter to the printer I received the 90 page ruling from Judge Robert Pitman, which **denied our motion for temporary air conditioning**. His decision appears to be based on the costly logistics of temporary air conditioning, **"It is a matter of reality and practicality that time and resources would be more judiciously spent securing permanent air conditioning"** yet **strongly** in favor of PERMANENT air conditioning. **"Crucially, the Court emphasizes its anticipation that Plaintiffs will ultimately succeed on the merits. The Court warns Collier that it foresees Plaintiffs being entitled to permanent relief in the form of expeditious installation of permanent air conditioning in all TDCJ facilities. Rather, it is in all parties' best interest, and the public's, to move as quickly as possible to install permanent air conditioning."** As I type this our legal team is preparing for next steps based on the Judge's Pittman's statements, (that are in agreement with the previous statement of Judge Ellison's previous ruling) that the lack of air conditioning is clearly a violation of 8th amendment rights. Furthermore, TPCA is asking our legislators for:

- ✓ Full AC installation—not patchwork fixes
- ✓ Accountability for false reporting
- ✓ Legislative oversight that puts people over politics

We're calling on state leaders to open a full, independent investigation into these fraudulent records. We will not stop pushing until the truth is exposed—and real change is made.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- This issue features information about the water you drink
- A few highlight photos of our amplification events.
- Special coverage of Compassionate Release in Texas, plus advice on reporting medical needs
- Tips on how to file an effective grievance
- Updates from the 89th legislative session



TPCA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2025 TEXAS PRISONS COMMUNITY ADVOCATES

Please SUPPORT these bills

1 85 to Stay Alive



We Demand humane Climate Conditions of 65°-85°(heat index) in all Texas prisons to prevent torture & heat-related deaths and safeguard human dignity.

Extreme Heat has Killed too many - Excessive Medical Expenses Lack of Humane Temperatures in all TDCJ facilities Inhibits Rehabilitative Efforts - Current Mitigation policies are ineffective - Contributors of Officer and Staff turnover

Current Bills

SB 169 Sen. José Menéndez | Blanco | Cook | Eckhardt | Gutierrez | Johnson

HB3006 Rep. Canales HB 489 Rosenthal HB 1315 Martinez Fischer HB2997 Rep. Bryant

HB 3443 Rep Reynolds

2 Incarcerated Veterans

Objective #1

Introduce Veterans Outreach, Interventions, Career and Educational Services (Liaison and Peer Supportive Services), for all Veterans offering veterans benefits, healthcare, basic skills, information, and learning and development opportunities;

Objective #2

Ensure that all veterans live in climate-controlled prison facilities, (adequate heat and cool temperatures maintaining a 65° to 85° heat index).

HB153 Raymond

HB 5639 Josey Garcia

3 Independent Oversight

Independent oversight of prisons is a critical mechanism to ensure transparency, accountability, identify systemic issues, provide recommendations for reform, and the humane treatment of incarcerated individuals.

SB2387 Miles

HB5565 Canales

4 Solitary Confinement

Advocating for humane alternatives to solitary confinement, addressing its severe psychological and physical toll.

SB2381 Sen. José Menéndez

HB1409, HB3721, HB3723,

HB3725- Rep. Meza

HB4764 - Rep. Jones

5 Compassionate Release

Advocating for the release of terminally ill and aging individuals to reduce suffering and honor human dignity and reduce the pressure on the system as a whole.

SB2756 Cook

6 Law of Parties

Law of Parties (Texas Penal Code § 7.01 and .02) states that a person can be criminally responsible for the actions of another in certain circumstances. This is NOT Justice

HB 5058 Leach

HB 2649 Dutton

7 Other Prison Conditions Agenda Items

Medical Care - **HB5349, HB3937 Rep. Meza**

Mental Health- **HB1826 Bowers**

Toxic Water - **SB 1929 Sen. José Menéndez | Bettencourt**

Sunset Commission Bills - **SB2400 Parker & HB1515 Canales**

P.O Box 1974, Fulton, TX 78358 Info@TPCADvocates.org www.tpcadvocates.org



MEETING WITH THE
SUNSET
COMMISSION 2023



ST. EDWARDS UNIVERSITY OVER 107 PEOPLE WERE INSIDE
OUR HEATED MOCK PRISON CELLS 2024



UT AUSTIN 2024



VIGIL AT THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION
AUSTIN, TX 2023



MULITFAITH
DALLAS, TX 2024



HONORING THOSE THAT HAVE PASSED AWAY
INSIDE, 2024



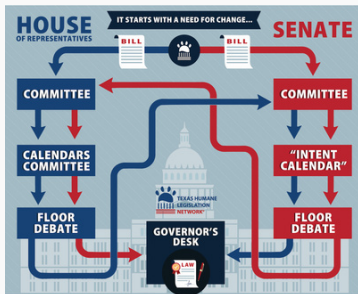
TPCA NEWSLETTER, MARCH 2025



HOUSTON EVENTS
2024



P.O. BOX1974 , FULTON, TX 78358



The 89th Texas Legislative Session

The 89th Texas Legislative Session began on January 14th, 2025, and will run until June 2nd, 2025. During this time, Texas lawmakers file bills to be discussed by special committees. When a bill passes a committee, it reaches the floor where it is debated by the lower chamber (House) and the upper chamber (Senate). Both chambers must agree on the content of the piece of legislation, usually a bill before it reaches the Governor. Currently, in this Regular Session, we are seeing several important bills roll in regarding administrative segregation, air conditioning, prison conditions, the death penalty, and criminal records. You can find a list of noteworthy bills introduced in this session on **page 10** in this newsletter.

How can a Bill be Killed?

- The committee chair can fail to schedule a hearing
- Committees can purposefully miss deadlines
- **"Chubbing"** and **"Filibuster"**: when debate or speeches are purposefully drawn out to prevent a vote by the deadline
- A bill "dies" when it fails to receive enough votes, or when the House and Senate pass different versions of a bill that don't agree on content or language.
- **Veto**: the Governor's power to overturn a piece of the legislature even after it passes both chambers. A veto can be overturned with a two-thirds majority from the legislature.

What can we do? Bringing Awareness

- **Contacting lawmakers**: this can be letter writing or opeds.
- Encourage you firends and loved ones on the outside to participate in the process by
 - **Get educated on the process**
 - **Contacting lawmakers**: calling, letter writing, reaching out to staff, or coming to the capitol. This is important to highlight public opinion.
 - **Testifying** at public hearings: According to Luke Metzger of Environment Texas, what makes a powerful testimony is succinctly speaking about your own experience. You can submit written testimony or have someone testify on your behalf.
 - **Amplify the cause** - Spread the knowledge far and wide through communication and social media. Impacted family and friends can find some of this information on our website and trough our trainings.

TPCA's Mission Statement:
Our Mission is to serve incarcerated individuals, their impacted families, and to empower all through increased awareness and education and collaboration, thereby creating effective advocates who can advance humane conditions within the Texas prison system.

TPCA Board
Amite Dominick, PhD
President and Founder
Andrea Cedillo
Jessica Dickerson
Dr. O'Dell Johnson

Donations can be made on our website or Checks can be made out to Texas Prisons Community Advocates and mailed to the following address:

TPCA Contact Info:
P.O. Box 1974
Fulton, TX 78358
info@TPCAAdvocates.org
www.TPCAAdvocates.org

TPCA is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

TPCA does NOT have a legal department yet, so we can't assist with any legal recommendations or legal advice.

Si ustedes necesitan apoyo de alguien de acá afuera que pueda interferir por ustedes para su beneficio de advocación con mucho gusto pueden escribirnos en español, TPCA

COMPASSIONATE RELEASE IN TEXAS: IS IT FOR YOU?

Compassionate release is a process by which the incarcerated may be eligible for immediate early release on grounds of "particularly extraordinary or compelling circumstances which could not reasonably have been foreseen by the court at the time of sentencing". In Texas, there are two programs to obtain this type of parole. Medically Recommended Intensive Supervision (MRIS) and Emergency Medical Reprieve (EMR). TPCA believes that the expansion of these programs is well overdue.

Medically Recommended Intensive Supervision (MRIS) is a program that was first created in 1987 to provide the opportunity for early parole for incarcerated Texans based on being significantly ill, elderly, and/or having physical or mental disabilities. The program is managed by the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI) where eligible incarcerated persons are presented to the BPP voting panel for MRIS consideration.

Eligibility

- Terminal Illness (life expectancy of 6 months)
- Elderly (+ 65 yrs)
- Physical Disability (substantial functional limitations in three or more specific areas)
- Developmentally Disabled
- Mental Illness
- Need for Long-Term Care
- Organic Brain Syndrome
- Persistent Vegetative State
- Special needs patients

Disqualifiers

Unfortunately, there are several limits to eligibility for this program:

- **Serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole or on Death Row**
- **Active Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainees, Not U.S. Citizens, reportable convictions or adjudications**
- **Sex offense or reportable conviction or adjudication for a sex offense, unless in a "vegetative state" or have Organic Brain Syndrome**

Statistics

- In 2019 the Board approved 76 incarcerated individuals for MRIS, 59 were terminally ill and 17 were in need of long-term care.
- In 2020 the Board approved 61 incarcerated individuals for MRIS, 40 were terminally ill and 21 were in need of long-term care.

Emergency Medical Reprieve (EMR) Emergency Medical Reprieve (EMR) is a type of clemency that must be reviewed and recommended by The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles and granted by the Governor.

Eligibility

- Terminal Illness (expected death within 6 months);
- Elderly (+ 65 yrs.)
- Completely incapacitated
- Denied Medically Recommended Intensive Supervision (MRIS)
- Need for Long-Term Care
- Organic Brain Syndrome
- Persistent Vegetative State
- Special needs patients

Statistics

EMR hasn't been an effective means of release in recent years.

- In 2019 the Board received 132 requests for EMR, the Board's Clemency Section sent 3 to the full Board, and none were recommended to the Governor.
- In 2020 68 requests for EMR had been sent to the Board, 2 were recommended by the Board to the Governor and he denied both.

Our Advocacy:

- To pass or amend legislation guaranteeing compassionate release with no categorically exclusions of crime, sentence, or amount of time left to serve. We are grateful to Senator Molly Cook for filing SB2756 to address this topic.
- To amend policy by removing "threat to public safety" as a means of evaluating eligibility.
- For decision makers to include rationale for denials in notifications to all stakeholders.
- To allow individuals to reapply within 30 days of program denial.

GRIEVANCES?

- **Where can I find a grievance form?**

you can obtain a grievance form in your housing unit, law library, shift supervisors, or the grievance office. We will **continue** to request that TDCJ puts both your grievance and I60 forms onto your tablets.

- **Where can I learn more about the Grievance system?**

Tex. Gov't Code § 501.008 – Inmate Grievance System

TDCJ Offender Grievance Pamphlet

TDCJ Website (Resolving Grievances and Resolving Medical Complaints)

TPCA WebsiteA-12.1 Grievance Mechanism

Informal Resolution (TDCJ PolicyA-12.1 Attachment C)

TDCJ Offender Handbook

Office of the Ombudsman

You should be able to access many of these documents through the law library. You can also reach out to your friends and family to locate these documents on website. Finally send us a request and we will try to locate them as volunteer stff becomes available..

- **What if I have more than one issue?**

The grievance procedure can only address one issue at a time. If you have multiple issues that need addressing, file several separate grievances.

WHAT CAN BE GRIEVED ?



TDCJ policies and procedures



State or Federal Laws

Actions of an employee or another incarcerated person

Parole decisions x Time-served credit disputes

Harassment and/or retaliation for use of the grievance procedure or access to courts

Matters for which other formal appeal mechanisms exist

Loss or damage of personal property by TDCJ

Any matter beyond the control of the Agency



File an OPI (Offender Protection Investigation Under the Following Circumstances:

01

Fear of other incarcerated persons

02

Fear of staff

03

Medical emergency

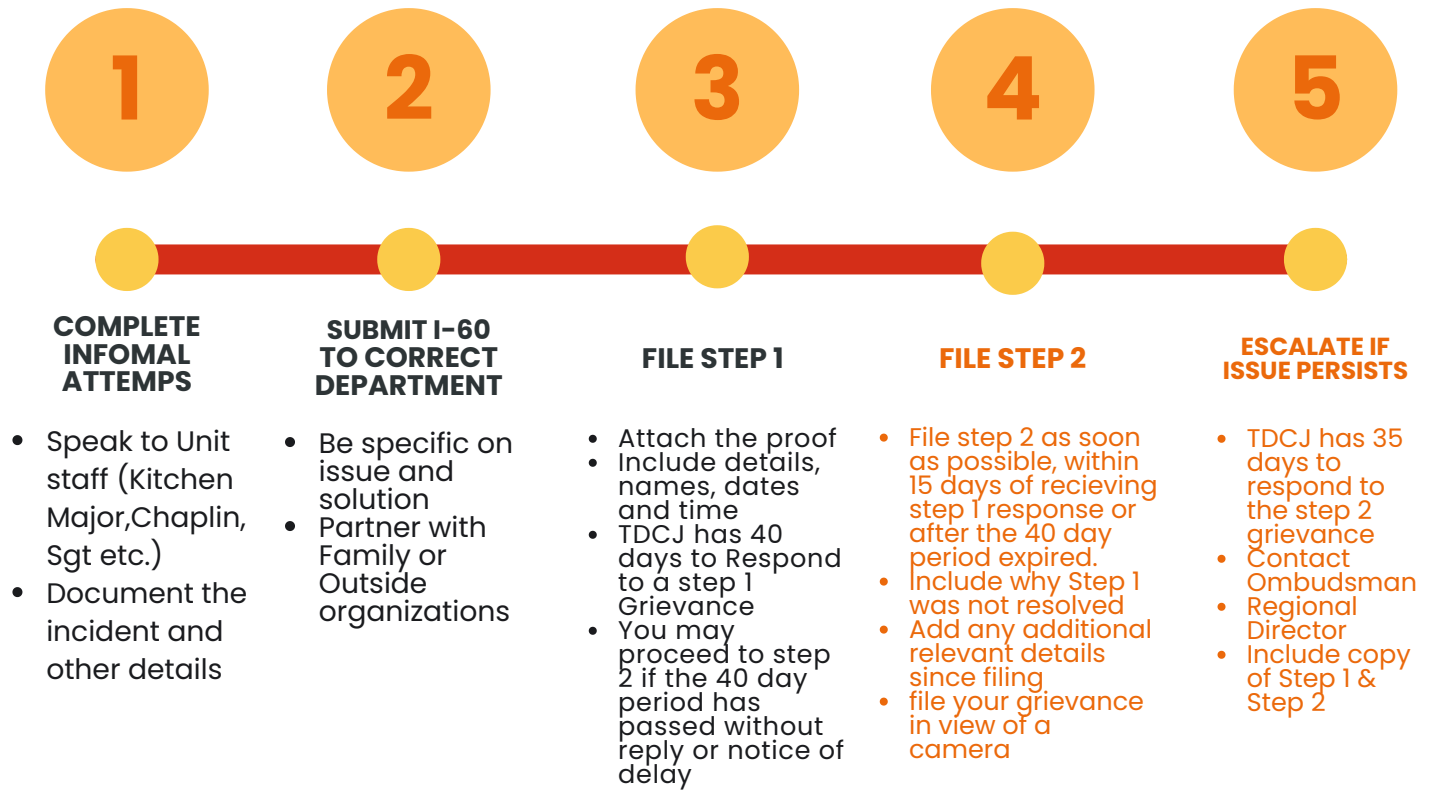
04

Sexual assault and/or abuse

05

Extortion

BASIC GRIEVANCE FILING



• How do I write a strong grievance?

Be specific, clear, and concise. Remain focused on the issue at hand as well as the action that needs to be taken. Include the date, details, names, and witnesses. Site policy as often as possible. Be sure to use appropriate language as threatening or profane language is grounds for the grievance to be discarded.

A WORD ON THE 2-STEP GRIEVANCE SYSTEM

While we are aware of the flaws in the grievance system, writing grievances is an important tool for addressing the issues you are facing. Remember, a grievance can only be used to address one issue at a time; you will need to file separate grievances for each different issue. It is important to be specific about the issue you face AND the course of action to be taken (ie: Despite raising my complaints to correctional staff, I have not been taken to a shower in five days. To maintain health and hygiene, inmates should have access to showers at least every other day...).

According to the procedures set by the Prison Litigation Reform Act (PLRA), usually, incarcerated people must follow the 2-step grievance system before filing a lawsuit. TDCJ has forty days to respond to the step 1 grievance. If you have not received a reply or notice of delay in this period, or if the issues are not resolved upon receiving a reply, you may proceed to the step 2 grievance. Step 2 grievances must be filed 15 days after receiving a response to step 1, and TDCJ has 35 days to respond to step 2.

Furthermore, step 2 is tracked and audited, which allows advocates and political members to understand the issues facing certain units more holistically. Be sure to keep ALL copies of returned grievances.

Advocacy Spotlight

ReEntry and Disability

Working Group 512 [WG512] operates as a service agency across Central, South, North, and West Texas. The Organization focuses on food access, housing assistance, and digital device distribution.

Since our inception, we rescued ten (10) million pounds of food & completed over 45k deliveries in over three years of our Food Access Program. We organized a communications database of over 750 contacts in over fifty (50) zip codes throughout Texas, completed 650 move-ins and move-outs for impacted persons, provided 250 TVs to families, over 1 million diapers & wipes to mothers, and traveled over 1 million miles to help communities survive & sustain since May 2020. We are a Narcan provider, and we're proud to say that more than twenty (20) clients we've worked with since 2021 have achieved over a year of sobriety.

Our founder, Chivas Watson, reports for End Mass Incarceration KPFT 90.1 FM's The Prison Show. In addition, he is an Indeed Fair Chance Hiring spokesperson and a City of Austin Net-Zero Hero. As an organization of abolitionists, we advocate for prison reform, improved prison conditions, and the release of incarcerated individuals. WG51 also works in maternal health, homeless diversion & client management, business development, provides mobility/transportation services, employment assistance, peer support, violence interruption, legal education, and other efforts of restorative justice for individuals impacted by the Justice system and families that have survived through terrible times in Austin.

We're equitably positioned in Austin communities, led by a justice-involved Black man and a 70% justice-involved Board of Directors. WG512 operates six days out of the week, extending outside of a conventional workday schedule, and operates when virtually all local service providers are inactive. We engage with communities in ways that individuals & families can trust & depend on during vulnerable times. WorkingGroup512 [WG512] is a team of shared leadership & values, community experience, and persons who've been starving for justice. You can contact Working Group 512 at 4016 Indian Sunrise, San Antonio, TX 78244 or 817.307.2267

The Best Option, LLC, is an HHSC Licensed Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment Program and a TDCJ-CJAD Accredited Battering Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP) provider. Our staff is comprised of Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors (LCDCs), Certified Anger Resolution Therapists (CARTs), Community Health Workers (CHWs), and Credentialed Battering Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP) Facilitators.

Our mission is to create and deliver integrated Outpatient Substance Abuse, Education, and BIPP services for those wanting to live a life free of substance abuse and battering behavior. Staff provide guidance in healthy coping skills to develop a healthy alcohol and drug-free lifestyle.

Texas Treatment Services dba STOP SA, strives to provide affordable and successful Medication-Assisted Treatment to those persons struggling with opioid addiction. Patients will also receive individual counseling, treatment planning, relapse prevention, and discharge planning. Our staff is trained in the disease of addiction and we aim to better the lives of those impacted. Through our dedication to our patients and our communities, Texas Treatment Services, LLC, has grown to provide the most effective treatment options in the state for those persons suffering from opioid addiction.

3700 Fredericksburg Road, Suite 137, San Antonio, Texas
78201, United States

210. 265. 1133

Disability Rights Texas (DRTx) is the federally mandated protection and advocacy agency for Texans with disabilities. Since 1977, DRTx attorneys and advocates have worked to ensure people with disabilities understand and exercise their rights so they can fully and equally participate in society.

They accomplish this goal in the following ways:

- Provide direct legal assistance to people with disabilities whose rights are threatened or violated.
- Protect the rights of individuals and groups of people with disabilities through the courts and justice system.
- Educate policymakers about issues that impact the rights and services of people with disabilities.
- Inform people with disabilities about their rights.
- Make referrals to programs and services.

To apply for free legal services from DRTx

- Monday through Friday, 9 am to 4 pm: 1-800-252-9108 (Statewide Intake Line); Sign Language Video Phone: 1-866-362-2851; Purple 2 Video Phone: 512-271-9391

Apply online 24/7: Intake.DRTx.org Write them at 2222 W Braker Ln, Austin, TX 78758

Water Crisis in TDCJ Facilities

At TPCA, we are aware of the ongoing issues with water quality in TDCJ units and appreciate your letters and communication on the matter. Incarcerated people often bear the brunt of environmental hazards, and prisons frequently fail to meet even basic standards of livability. Climate change, aging infrastructure, and poor contingency planning have created a dangerous situation behind bars—one that amounts to a human rights crisis.

TDCJ has a long history of water violations, with reports of discolored, foul-smelling water containing visible particles. Access to safe drinking water remains limited, and families often pay inflated prices for bottled water through commissary systems. Despite multiple citations from health and environmental agencies, systemic issues persist.

We're grateful to everyone who contributed to our first water report. From the Primary author *"Our impactful report on TDCJ water from 2019 to 2023 was improved by quotes from past surveys, thank you all. It is important to share we found weed killer in Clemens' water, lead at Chase Field, BatenlJordan, and Ferguson; Coliform at Coffield/Michael, Beto and Luther, and both at Memorial, Jester, and Ramsey area also had E coli... Knowledge is power."* Sloan Rucker

SB 1929 Sen. José Menéndez| Bettencourt for introducing related legislation this session. Due to limited funding, we cannot send copies of the current report to everyone, but you can write to request one and we'll try fulfill as many as possible. The report is also posted on our website for your family members to download and send to you. Please also take a moment to fill out the water survey linked at the end of the report to help us continue this important work.

CONTAMINANTS HAVE BEEN FOUND IN THE WATER AT MULTIPLE UNITS
HERE ARE A FEW SYPMTOMS RELATED TO TOXIC WATER EXPOSURE

• **ARSENIC**

SKIN LESIONS, RASHES, GASTROINTESTINAL ISSUES, BLOOD VESSEL DAMAGE, AND IMPAIRED NERVE FUNCTION

• **LEAD**

HEADACHES, DIFFICULTY CONCENTRATING, MEMORY LOSS, GASTROINTESTINAL ISSUES, SEIZURES, INTERNAL BLEEDING

• **HARMFUL BACTERIA**

DIARRHEA, VOMITING, STOMACH CRAMPS, NAUSEA, AND FEVER, WITH SEVERE CASES POTENTIALLY LEADING TO DEHYDRATION, SEIZURES

PRISON CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN SO INADEQUATE THAT COURTS HAVE RULED THAT THEY **VIOLATE THE 8TH AMENDMENT, WHICH PROHIBITS CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT.**

MANY OF THESE CONDITIONS ARE THE RESULT OF EXCESSIVE HEAT OR COLD, EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS, LACK OF DRINKABLE WATER, AND EXPOSURE TO TOXIC ELEMENTS.

WHILE SOME CASES HAVE BEEN WON, NO NATIONAL CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE AND ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE CONTINUES.

[HTTPS://SITES.UAB.EDU/HUMANRIGHTS/2020/](https://sites.uab.edu/humanrights/2020/)

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US!
HELP US GET THE WORD OUT THAT WATER IS A PROBLEM AT TDCJ.

SEE MEDICAL IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING TOXIC WATER RELATED SYMPTOMS

FILE A GRIEVANCE, AND KEEP DETAILED RECORDS OF ANY ISSUES YOU ARE HAVING WITH WATER,
SPREAD THE WORD!



NEED MEDICAL ATTENTION?

We need you to keep seeking medical care and documenting your experiences—yes, we hear you. Accessing medical care in TDCJ is often slow, inadequate, and sometimes denied altogether. Incarcerated individuals regularly report long wait times, lack of proper diagnosis, and being dismissed without treatment. Even urgent health issues can go unaddressed due to understaffing, budget constraints, or institutional neglect. This puts lives at risk and reflects a broader failure to uphold basic human rights and dignity in the prison system. We're grateful for HB 5349 and HB 3937 by Rep. Meza, which aim to address these serious issues. Your voices help drive accountability and real change.

File A Sick Call Request (I60)

to be seen by the Unit Medical Provider

These forms are available at your housing unit.
Fill out the sick call form according to the instructions
Provide a **thorough and detailed** description of your medical concern.

For example, Instead of saying:

"My stomach hurts."

Give **details** of symptoms and duration:

"For the **past four days**, I have been experiencing **abdominal pain**, my stomach is **sensitive to touch**."

Request an I-60 from the Duty Officer at their Unit and turn it in at a receiving box.

If possible, place the I-60 in a receiving box that has **a camera pointing toward it**.

Wave at the camera.

Let your loved ones know **which box it was placed in** and the **time and date** that you did it.

- Make sure you have a **current HIPPA/PHI** on file
- Consider acquiring a Medical POA
- Request your medical records routinely
 - Make sure your outside point of contact has them as well

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the policies of TPCA.

Sitting in the dreary sterile prison visitation room, I watched families share candy and chips from the vending machines, laughing as if they were at a lavish resort dining on a five-course meal. Looking around, I saw many of the tables held the same as mine; a single driver's license, a set of keys, and a plastic baggie full of coins. Like many of your loved ones, this was me visiting my son every month after driving hundreds of miles on a weekend.

I'm Donna, the mother of a son who's incarcerated in Texas. It's not the life I'd dreamed of but it's the one I live because I love my son despite what he's done in the past, the way I'm sure your loved ones feel.

He was just doing the time till he was released when unexpectedly, he fell seriously ill while housed at Estelle and was rushed to the local hospital. This was his third prison sentence, but he'd never dealt with medical issues.

As I tried to maneuver through TDCJ's vague rules, it seemed to me that no one at the unit had the knowledge, or just didn't want to help me. It took multiple daily phone calls to every number I found, along with the help of TPCA, to get answers. My son almost died, and it was two years before he was finally medically cleared.

We are all on this journey together. Some destinations arrive sooner than others. The key is to improve yourself every day. What can I do to better myself today? Learn an unfamiliar word and its meaning. Be Kind to someone who doesn't have a support system. Write an Action Plan for when you're released. Time will go by regardless...make it count.

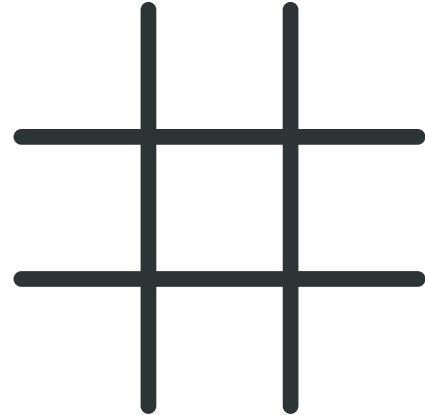
BY DONNA

A RECIPE FOR TAMALES



1. **Crunch up a bag of corn chips and a bag of spicy hot Cheetos, Doritos, or any other spicy chip that is available**
2. **Mix the chips into one of the chip bags. Add some hot water to create thick mush-like mashed potatoes.**
3. **Drain off any excess water and tightly roll the mix-up inside the chip bag.**
4. **Let sit for about five minutes, remove the bag, and add some hot sauce.**

TIC-TAC-TOE



CRIMINAL JUSTICE RELATED BILLS FOR 89TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE

HB : 1610 : Leach -Relating to the nonsubstantive revision of certain provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, including conforming amendments. **PASSED EFF. April 1, 2027**

HB 2942 : Allen -Relating to information on classes or programs required to be completed before an inmate is released on parole. **DIED**

HB 5286 : Hinojosa - Relating to the release of a person on parole or mandatory supervision from a residential correctional facility. **DIED**

HB 2082 :Bucy - Relating to ensuring access to the right to vote by all eligible voters. **DIED**

HB 4332 : Hull - Relating to the procedures for and reporting regarding the consideration of inmates for release on parole and the frequency with which the Board of Pardons and Paroles reconsiders inmates for release on parole. **DIED**

HB 2538 : - Relating to chemical castration treatment as a condition of parole for certain releasees; creating a criminal offense. **DIED**

SB 2338 : Zaffirini - Relating to the award of work-for-time credits to certain persons released on parole or to mandatory supervision. **DIED**

HB 2417 : Campos - Relating to the eligibility of certain wrongfully imprisoned persons for compensation and for the expunction of arrest records and files in the case. **PASSED EFF. 9/1/2025**

HB 5254 Raymond - Relating to a claim of actual innocence by a person convicted of a criminal offense; creating the Texas Innocence Inquiry Commission. **DIED**

SB 803 : West - Relating to a hearing for an alleged violation of community supervision by a defendant and the manner in which that defendant is required to appear before the court. **DIED**

HB 773 : Moody - Relating to the authority of a court to grant a commutation of punishment to certain individuals serving a term of imprisonment. **DIED**

HB 433 : Bucy - Relating to the establishment of the Higher Education and Corrections Council. **DIED**

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| SB 2405 Parker PASSED Eff. 9/1/2025 HB 1515: Canales DIED | Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and to the functions of the Board of Pardons and Paroles, the Correctional Managed Health Care Committee, the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments, and the Windham School District. | HB 4937 : Harless DIED SB 1506 : Parker PASSED | Relating to the frequency with which the Board of Pardons and Paroles reconsiders inmates for release on parole. |
| SB 181 : Menéndez DIED | Relating to the authority of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to adopt a gender-responsive risk and needs assessment instrument. | HB 2237 : Dutton DIED HB 651 : Moody DIED HB 454 : Bucy DIED SB 343: Eckhardt DIED | Relating to abolishing the death penalty. |
| HB 1409 : Meza DIED SB 2381 : Menéndez DIED | Relating to limitations on the use of administrative segregation by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. | SB 537 : Johnson DIED | Relating to the procedures for the expunction of arrest records and files for persons who complete certain court programs or pretrial intervention programs. |
| SB 697 : West DIED | Relating to an annual report by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice on post-release or post-discharge employment and certain other inmate data. | HB 1315 : Martinez, Fischer DIED | Relating to air conditioning requirements at facilities operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. |
| HB 1416 : Allen DIED | Relating to program accessibility for female inmates of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. | HB 1410 : Meza DIED | Relating to prohibiting the confinement of inmates by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in facilities operated by private vendors. |
| SB 182 : Menendez DIED HB 4620 : Allen DIED | Relating to program accessibility for female inmates of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. | HB 1826 : Bowers DIED SB 2849 : Menéndez DIED | Relating to depression screenings for certain women in county jail or in the custody of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. |
| HB 486 : Bucy DIED | Relating to prohibiting the publication of certain criminal record information of individuals involved in the criminal justice system. | SB 676 : Hughes DIED | Relating to the award of good conduct time to inmates. |
| HB 1391 : Hopper DIED | Relating to the prosecution and punishment of certain trafficking and sexual offenses; increasing criminal penalties; changing parole eligibility. | HB 280 : Thompson, Senfronia DIED | Relating to the authority of a court to terminate the sentence of certain persons released on parole. |
| SB 476 : Middleton DIED | Relating to enhancing the criminal penalty for the offense of intoxication manslaughter in certain circumstances. | HB 403 : Swanson DIED | Relating to housing and placement of inmates and children according to biological sex. |
| HB 463 : Jones DIED | Relating to the automatic expunction of arrest records and files after certain controlled substance offense charges are dismissed. | HB 2940 : Jones, Venton DIED | Relating to the award of good conduct time to certain inmates; changing parole eligibility. |
| HB 1470 : Reynolds DIED | Relating to a task force to study the legal and societal barriers to equality for transgender persons. | HB 2234 : Dutton DIED SB 1306 : Cook DIED | Relating to the age of criminal responsibility and to certain substantive and procedural matters related to that age. |
| HB 4764 : Jones DIED | Relating to an annual report on the use of administrative segregation in facilities operated by or under contract with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. | SB 55 : Zaffirini DIED HB 307 : Vaust DIED | Relating to credit toward payment of fines and costs for certain defendants. |
| HB 914 : Thompson, Senfronia DIED | Relating to repealing civil asset forfeiture provisions and establishing criminal asset forfeiture in this state. | HB 1852 : Collier DIED | Relating to authority of a court to reduce or modify a defendant's sentence. |
| SB 860 : Flores PASSED EFF. 6/20 | Relating to abolishing the Criminal Justice Legislative Oversight Committee. | | |

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| <u>HB 3006</u> : Canales DIED | Relating to the purchase and installation of climate control systems at facilities operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. | <u>HB 2234</u> : Dutton DIED <u>SB 1306</u> : Cook DIED | Relating to the age of criminal responsibility and to certain substantive and procedural matters related to that age. |
| <u>HB 2704</u> : Shofner DIED | Relating to general definitions regarding biological sex and the designation and use of certain spaces according to biological sex; authorizing a civil right of action. | <u>HB 3418</u> : Morales DIED | Relating to prohibitions on certain employment for sex offenders. |
| <u>HB 2617</u>: Johnson DIED <u>SB 537</u>: Anchía DIED | Relating to the procedures for the expunction of arrest records and files for persons who complete certain court programs or pretrial intervention programs. | <u>HB 2997</u> : Bryant DIED <u>HB 3443</u> : Reynolds DIED <u>HB 489</u> : Rosenthal DIED <u>SB 169</u> : Menendez, et al. DIED | Relating to the temperature at which certain facilities operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice are maintained. |
| <u>SB 1078</u> : West DIED <u>HB 3618</u> : Troxclair DIED | Relating to certain searches of female inmates by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. | <u>HB 3166</u> : Cook DIED | Relating to the authority of a court to grant a commutation of punishment to certain individuals serving a term of imprisonment and to victims' rights regarding a motion to grant a commutation. |
| <u>SB 2756</u> : Cook DIED | Relating to the release of an inmate on medically recommended intensive supervision. | <u>HB 2647</u> : Dutton DIED | Relating to the establishment of the inmate legal services office and to the appointment and compensation of certain legal counsel for certain indigent inmates and other persons in secure correctional facilities. |
| <u>HB 833</u> DIED | Relating to credit toward a defendant's sentence for time confined in jail or prison before sentencing. | <u>HB 2582</u> : Hull DIED | Relating to the rights of a victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim to information regarding a defendant's parole. |
| <u>HB 437</u> : Swanson DIED | Relating to the placement of children in a detention or correctional facility according to biological sex. | <u>SB 1929</u> : Menéndez, et al. DIED | Relating to water testing by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality at correctional facilities operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and county jails. |
| <u>SB 219</u> : King DIED | Relating to the availability of certain personal information of a member of the governing board of an institution of higher education, the chief executive officer of the institution, or the chief executive officer of a university system. | <u>HB 2229</u> : Hernandez DIED <u>HB 2006</u> : Plesa DIED | Relating to the expunction of arrest records and files by a statutory county court. |
| <u>SB 2456</u> : Hughes DIED | Relating to religious programs and activities available to inmates | <u>SB 1666</u> : Zaffirini PASSED EFF. 9/1 <u>HB 3636</u> : Metcalf DIED | Relating to the payment of restitution by a person released on parole or to mandatory supervision. |
| <u>HB 5349</u> : Meza DIED | Relating to a quality assurance audit of the provision of health care to inmates by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. | <u>HB 2854</u> : Anchía PASSED EFF 9/1 <u>SB 1416</u> : West DIED | Relating to the release of an inmate on medically recommended intensive supervision. |
| <u>HB 5159</u> : Bryant DIED | Relating to providing inmates with state-issued identification on release or discharge. | <u>SB 631</u> : Eckhardt DIED <u>HB 4594</u> : Bucy DIED | Relating to qualifications and registration of certain voters convicted of a felony. |
| <u>SB 631</u> : Eckhardt DIED <u>HB 4594</u> : Bucy DIED | Relating to qualifications and registration of certain voters convicted of a felony. | <u>HB 3261</u> : Johnson DIED | Relating to the eligibility of certain criminal defendants for an order of nondisclosure of criminal history record information. |
| <u>HB 2756</u> : Thompson PASSED EFF. 9/1 <u>SB 2839</u> : Huffman DIED | Relating to training on de-escalation, crisis intervention, and behavioral health for correctional officers and certain other employees of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. | | |

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| <u>HB 992</u> : Johnson DIED | Relating to the eligibility for an order of nondisclosure of criminal history record information of a criminal defendant who has successfully completed a specialty court program. | <u>SB 1690</u>: : Menéndez DIED | Relating to a Texas Department of Criminal Justice record of information regarding death penalty drugs. |
| <u>HB 200</u> : Buckley DIED <u>HB 5525</u> : Jones DIED | Relating to jury instructions regarding parole eligibility and the release on parole of certain inmates convicted of an offense committed when younger than 18 years of age; changing parole eligibility. | <u>HB 3834</u> : Moody DIED <u>SB 828</u> : Parker DIED | Relating to the provision of services by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to offenders with intellectual or developmental disabilities. |
| <u>HB 2943</u> : Allen DIED | Relating to post-release housing for inmates released on parole or to mandatory supervision. | <u>HB 2777</u> : Rose DIED | Relating to the applicability of the death penalty to a capital offense committed by a person with severe mental illness. |
| <u>HB 3723</u> : Meza DIED | Relating to the access of certain individuals in correctional facilities to certain rehabilitative treatments. | <u>HB 2558</u> : Dutton DIED | Relating to the child support obligation of an obligor during the obligor's confinement in jail or prison. |
| <u>HB 3443</u> : Reynolds DIED | Relating to the temperature at which a facility operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice is maintained. | <u>HB 3813</u> : Garcia DIED | Relating to the accrual of interest on delinquent child support owed by obligors who are incarcerated. |
| <u>SB 182</u> : Menéndez DIED <u>HB 1416</u> : Allen DIED | Relating to program accessibility for female inmates of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. | <u>HB 3725</u> : Meza DIED | Relating to the reform of solitary confinement practices and the treatment of prisoners affiliated with security threat groups in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ). |
| <u>HB 1852</u> : Collier DIED | Relating to authority of a court to reduce or modify a defendant's sentence. | <u>HB 996</u> : Johnson HB <u>2447</u> : Moody. DIED | Relating to the eligibility of criminal defendants for an order of nondisclosure of criminal history record information for certain offenses committed when younger than 25 years of age. |
| <u>HB 2792</u> : Simmons DIED | Relating to a study on capital punishment in this state and to a moratorium on executions. | <u>HB 5565</u> : Canales <u>SB 2387</u> : Miles DIED | Relating to the creation of the office of independent oversight ombudsman for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. |
| <u>HB 2498</u> : Leach DIED <u>SB 1053</u> : Hinojosa DIED | Relating to the consequences of a criminal conviction on a person's eligibility for an occupational license. | | |
| <u>HB 3721</u> : Meza DIED | Relating to a study by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice concerning the transparency, oversight, and accountability of the use of the restrictive housing, security threat groups, and certain disciplinary measures | | |
| <u>HB 3464</u> : Meza PASSED | Relating to the offense of providing a controlled substance to a person in the custody of a correctional facility; increasing a criminal penalty. | | |

We sincerely hope that you find this newsletter informative and a bright spot in your day. Please let us know what you would like to see in upcoming editions as we attempt to get back on track with our quarterly newsletters.