

Chapter: Rules for State-Operated Programs and Facilities	Effective Date: 4/1/14 Page: 1 of 3 Replaces: GAP.380.8551, 9/1/09
Subchapter: Admission, Placement, Release, and Discharge	
Division: Definitions	
Rule: Definitions	
ACA: N/A	
Statutes: N/A	

RULE

The following words and terms, as used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

- (1) **Assessment Rating**--a score derived from evidence-based criminogenic factors in a youth's history used to assess the danger a youth poses to the community.
- (2) **Committing Offense**--the most serious of the relevant offenses found at the youth's commitment proceeding and any probated offense(s) modified by the commitment order. If a committing offense is a violation of a federal statute, the offense will be treated as a violation of a state statute which prohibits the same conduct as the relevant federal offense. The committing offense is a significant factor in determining the restriction level of the initial placement, initial minimum length of stay, transition criteria, approvals needed for release, and length of time on parole.
- (3) **Community Re-entry/Transition Plan (CRP-T)**--an individual case plan that includes conditions of parole or placement for youth who are moving to a less restrictive environment. The CRP-T summarizes the youth's progress to date, identifies risk factors and protective factors, provides referrals to community services and supports, and identifies objectives for the youth to complete at the next placement.
- (4) **Community Re-Integration Plan**--a workbook-style document that a youth revises over the course of his/her rehabilitation program based on feedback from the case manager, group, family members, and multi-disciplinary team. The document demonstrates the youth's understanding of his/her risk and protective factors; development of skills, abilities, and knowledge to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors; identification of goals and a plan of action to achieve goals; and identification of obstacles that may hinder successful community re-entry and plans to deal with those obstacles.
- (5) **Conditional Placement**--a trial living arrangement at a lower restriction level without changing the youth's currently assigned placement. Conditional placements may be to medium restriction facilities or approved home placements. Continued placement at the lower restriction level is dependent on meeting pre-established conditions.
- (6) **Discharge**--an action that ends the Texas Juvenile Justice Department's (TJJD's) jurisdiction over a youth.
- (7) **Exit Review**--a process by which staff determines whether the youth meets transition criteria or program completion criteria and whether the community re-entry/transition plan adequately addresses the youth's identified risk factors for re-offending. As part of the exit review, a face-to-face interview is required for sentenced offenders and youth with a committing offense of high severity, along with review and approval of the release documents.
- (8) **High Restriction and Medium Restriction**--see definitions in §380.8527 of this title.
- (9) **Home Placement**--a placement in the home of the parent, other relative or individual acting in the role of parent, managing conservator, or guardian, or in an independent living arrangement (excluding contract independent living programs), for youth who have earned parole status.
- (10) **Home Substitute Placement**--a program placement in the community that is not high restriction for youth who have earned parole status.

- (11) **Indicator**--tasks that clarify and show evidence of completing the stage objective. These tasks are completed by the youth and involve discussion with the youth's case manager, group, multi-disciplinary team, and/or family/adult mentor. To complete an objective, all indicators must be completed.
- (12) **Initial Placement**--a placement to which youth are assigned following a period of assessment at a TJJD orientation and assessment unit upon being committed to TJJD.
- (13) **Minimum Length of Stay**--the predetermined minimum period of time established by TJJD that a youth will be assigned to live in a high or medium restriction placement before being placed on parole status.
- (14) **Minimum Period of Confinement**--the predetermined minimum period of time established by law that a youth committed to TJJD on a determinate sentence must remain confined in a high restriction placement.
- (15) **Most Serious of the Relevant Offenses**--the offense that carries the most severe consequences, which are, from most to least severe:
- (A) an offense which carries a determinate sentence;
 - (B) the offense for which the designated minimum length of stay will produce the longest time in the physical custody of TJJD;
 - (C) the offense which requires the highest level of restriction in placement;
 - (D) the offense which carries the most severe criminal penalty; and
 - (E) the most recently adjudicated offense.
- (16) **Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)**--a group of staff in TJJD-operated residential facilities who partner with the youth to facilitate his/her progress in the rehabilitation program. In high restriction facilities, the MDT consists of, at a minimum, the youth's assigned educator, the youth's case manager, and a juvenile correctional officer IV, V, or VI familiar with the youth. In medium restriction facilities, the MDT includes an administrator, the youth's case manager, and a juvenile correctional officer. The youth's family, along with other relevant staff members (psychologist, program specialist, principal, medical staff, etc.) involved in the youth's treatment and rehabilitation are encouraged to attend and participate in MDT meetings.
- (17) **Non-Sentenced Offender**--a youth who is committed to TJJD for an indeterminate period of time, not to exceed age 19.
- (18) **Objective**--the most important concepts or skills necessary to earn a stage and to progress in the rehabilitation program. Each objective has one or more indicators of completion.
- (19) **Offense Severity**--a rating of high, moderate, or low based on the degree of the committing or revocation offense as defined by the Texas Penal Code or relevant federal statute and any of the following applicable aggravating factors:
- (A) sex offense as identified in §62.001 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure;
 - (B) felony against a person;
 - (C) possession or use of a weapon or firearm during the commission of the committing offense.
- (20) **Parole status**--a status assigned to a youth when program completion criteria have been met or the Release Review Panel orders the youth's release under supervision. Parole status qualifies the youth for placement in the home or a home substitute and ensures that the youth may not be moved to a high restriction placement without the highest level of due process afforded to TJJD youth.
- (21) **Program Completion**--occurs when a youth has met specific requirements established by rule in order to earn release from a residential program.
- (22) **Release Under Supervision (or Release)**--the act of placing a youth on parole status. The youth remains under the jurisdiction of TJJD and is subject to the conditions of parole supervision.

- (23) **Revocation Offense**--the offense on which a youth's minimum length of stay is based following a parole revocation hearing. It is the most serious of the relevant offenses found at a parole revocation hearing.
- (24) **Risk and Protective Factors**--risk factors are aspects of a youth's environment, behavior, and mental processes that contribute to potential for further delinquent activity. Protective factors are positive aspects of individual youth situations that keep a youth away from delinquent activity. These factors are used as the foundation to design individual rehabilitation plans so that youth can learn to reduce their risk factors and increase their protective factors.
- (25) **Sentenced Offender**--a youth committed to TJJJ pursuant to Family Code §54.04(d)(3) or §54.05(f) with a fixed sentence assigned by the committing court. Depending on the length of the sentence, a youth may be transferred to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to complete the sentence.
- (26) **Stage**--measure of progress through TJJJ's rehabilitation program. The youth's stage assignment reflects the stage objectives he/she is currently working on.
- (27) **Transfer**--a movement of a sentenced offender to the TDCJ - Institutional Division or TDCJ - Parole Division.
- (28) **Transition**--the act of moving a youth from a high restriction facility to a medium restriction facility without placing the youth on parole status. Transitions are used to facilitate the youth's adjustment to the community.
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