



Agency News

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Special Halloween restrictions prevent children's contact with some parolees

Not every Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) employee gets to hand out candy or accompany their young trick-or-treaters on Halloween. Unit staff may be protecting the public while working their shift, and parole officers may be working to keep young trick-or-treaters away from parolees whose supervision conditions prohibit contact with children.

As in the past, paroled offenders with child-contact restrictions will receive written notice informing them that, in addition to their normal supervisory conditions:

- They are to remain home from 5 p.m. to 5 a.m., excluding medical treatment or regular employment that has been verified and approved by a parole officer
- All outside lighting of their residence must be turned off at 5 p.m.
- No Halloween decorations are to be placed on the exterior of their residence



To help ensure compliance, parole staff will conduct residence checks beginning at dusk on October 31. Parole's Specialized Programs Department will also send letters to Sex Offender Treatment Program providers, advising them to inform their treatment groups of these special restrictions.

According to Parole Division Director Stuart Jenkins, the special restrictions have been utilized for nearly 10 years, demonstrating the agency's long-term commitment to public safety by protecting children during typical Halloween festivities.

"Like many TDCJ employees, parole officers don't work eight-to-five, Monday through Friday," said Jenkins. "If making the rounds on Halloween night will make contact less likely (between children and those whose conditions prohibit contact), I believe our efforts are very worthwhile." ●