



**TEXAS BOARD
OF
PARDONS AND PAROLES**

Number: BPP-POL. 145.204

Date: August 20, 2026

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Supersedes: January 22, 2026

BOARD POLICY

SUBJECT: MEDICALLY RECOMMENDED INTENSIVE SUPERVISION

PURPOSE: To establish a policy and provide procedures for voting members of the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles to vote Medically Recommended Intensive Supervision cases.

AUTHORITY: Texas Government Code Sections 508.0441, 508.045, 508.146, and 508.221
Texas Administrative Code Title 37, Part 5, Chapter 145, Section 145.18

POLICY: It is the policy of the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles (Board) to consider Medically Recommended Intensive Supervision (MRIS) cases in accordance with this policy. The Board Members and Parole Commissioners, acting in a parole panel, will review and make release decisions on cases that meet MRIS criteria established by statute and identified and referred to the Board by the Texas Correctional Office for Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI).

DISCUSSION: MRIS represents a cooperative effort between the Board, TCOOMMI, Correctional Managed Health Care (CMHC) providers, and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Rehabilitation and Reentry Division and Parole Division to identify offenders as seriously impaired and decide whether the offender can safely serve the remainder of their sentence in a more appropriate environment, provided such release does not constitute a threat to public safety.

DEFINITIONS: Identified offender – an offender identified by TCOOMMI, in collaboration with CMHC, as being elderly, regardless of whether they have a listed condition, being terminally ill, having a mental illness, having an intellectual disability, or a physical disability, having a condition requiring long-term care, being in a persistent vegetative state, having an organic brain syndrome with significant to total mobility impairment, or having another eligible medical condition as prescribed by Board rule.

MRIS ineligible – an offender other than an offender sentenced to death or serving life without parole, or an offender who is not a citizen of the United States as defined by federal law, except that an offender with an instant offense described in Article 42A.054, Code of Criminal Procedure and identified by TCOOMMI as being terminally ill or having a condition requiring long-term care, or an offender with a reportable conviction or adjudication under Chapter 62, Code of Criminal Procedure, and identified by TCOOMMI as being in a persistent vegetative state or having an organic brain syndrome with significant to total mobility impairment may be released on MRIS.

MRIS panel – a parole panel composed of board members and parole commissioners designated by the Presiding Officer to determine the discretionary release of identified offenders.

Statutorily eligible offender – an offender who is MRIS eligible and identified by TCOOMMI.

Threat to public safety – a determined potential risk of harm or danger to the public considering factors identified in this policy.

Medical Review/Report – Each offender identified by TCOOMMI requires a review of the inmate's medical condition by at least one (1) health care practitioner, who provides a written report on the offender's condition that (A) is in plain language that is understandable by a non-medical professional; (B) specifically describes how the inmate's condition will affect the inmate's cognitive and physical abilities and limitations; and (C) contains other information as required by the Board.

PROCEDURE:

- I. The MRIS panel shall determine whether to approve or deny a statutorily eligible offender's release to MRIS.
 - A. Review – The MRIS panel shall review identified offender's cases that meet MRIS criteria established by statute, identified by TCOOMMI, and the parole panel is provided the statutorily mandated medical review and report.
 - B. Determination and Factors
 1. The MRIS panel shall determine whether the TCOOMMI identified offender constitutes a threat to public safety after considering the following factors:
 - a. Criminal History;
 - b. Disciplinary, behavioral, rehabilitative, and medical compliance;

- c. Victim/Trial Official information;
 - d. Nature and onset of medical condition;
 - e. Required medical treatment and care;
 - f. Individual diagnosis to include likelihood of recovery; and
 - g. Any other relevant information.
 - 2. The MRIS panel may utilize video visitation when a voter seeks additional information from the identified offender.
 - C. Voting Options – The MRIS panel shall use one of the following voting options:
 - 1. Approve MRIS – The MRIS panel shall provide appropriate reasons for the decision to approve MRIS. The MRIS panel shall vote FI-1 and impose Special Condition O.35. This condition specifies that the offender shall comply with the terms and conditions of the MRIS Program and abide by the TCOOMMI-approved release plan. At any time, this condition is in effect, the offender shall remain under the care of a physician and in a medically suitable placement.
 - 2. Deny MRIS – The MRIS panel shall provide appropriate reasons for the decision to deny MRIS.
- II. Decision to Approve MRIS
- A. The MRIS panel, upon a majority vote, may approve release to MRIS for an identified offender.
 - B. TCOOMMI shall provide a written report to the Board at least once each quarter on the offender's medical and placement status for the purpose of evaluating supervision, compliance trends, and adjustment behavior of MRIS offenders. Based on the report, the MRIS panel may modify conditions of release and impose any condition on the offender that the panel could impose on an offender under Section 508.145, Government Code.
- III. Withdrawal of MRIS – The decision to approve release to MRIS for an identified offender remains in effect until specifically withdrawn by a MRIS panel or the identified offender's status is revoked and returned to TDCJ Correctional Institutions Divisions.
- A. The TDCJ Parole Division may conduct an annual review and prepare a report for MRIS offenders on or about the anniversary date of their release for purposes of determining if MRIS placement remains appropriate. The annual report shall include:

1. a letter from the treating physician summarizing the MRIS offender's diagnosis and prognosis; and
 2. current placement status.
- B. When the Parole Division determines the MRIS offender's medical condition has improved such that the offender may no longer be MRIS eligible, and the original parole eligibility date has been met, the MRIS panel may:
1. withdraw the MRIS special condition; or
 2. continue the MRIS condition in effect; or
 3. impose any other condition the MRIS panel deems appropriate.
- IV. Supervision Violations – If the MRIS offender violates their conditions of release that result in the issuance of a pre-revocation warrant, the MRIS offender shall adhere to the established pre-revocation process. However, the final determination of the MRIS offender shall be addressed by the MRIS panel.
- V. Voting Timeframes – The MRIS panel shall endeavor to complete the voting of each terminally ill offender referral within 10 business days of receipt from TCOOMMI and all other referrals within 20 business days.

ADOPTED BY MAJORITY VOTE OF THE BOARD ON THE 20TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2026.

MARSHA MOBERLEY, PRESIDING OFFICER (CHAIR)

**Signature on file*