



Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Bryan Collier
Executive Director

April 7, 2021

Rob Drummond
Travis County District Attorney's Office
416 West 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Mr. Drummond:

The Travis County District Attorney's Office asked me to provide them additional information and answer supplementary questions from Dunne Defence regarding the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ). My previous correspondence was sent on February 10, 2021.

I am currently employed as the Region VI Director for the Correctional Institutions Division of the TDCJ. I have been employed by the agency since 1994. I have worked as the Region VI Director since February of 2019. Prior to my current position, I worked my way up from a Correctional Officer to Senior Warden while working on several units in the TDCJ as well as serving as the Deputy Director of the Administrative Review and Risk Management Division.

As Region VI Director for the Correctional Institutions Division, I oversee nineteen units and sixteen Wardens. I am responsible for walking the units to ensure policies, proper sanitation and safety measures are being followed. I also conduct audits, security reviews and disciplinary hearings in addition to my other administrative duties. Based on my prior experience and current duties, I have access to and knowledge of agency operations.

I have listed the information you requested below.

- 1. You provided the ACA standard in relation to minimum size of cells/rooms in restrictive housing; what is the minimum ACA standard for unencumbered space in regular housing and what percentage of TDCJ regular housing meets it?**

The ACA standard for unencumbered space in regular housing is:

5-ACI- 2C-01: Cell/rooms used for housing inmates shall provide at a minimum, 25 square feet of unencumbered space per occupant. *Unencumbered space* is usable space that is not encumbered by furnishing or fixtures. At least one dimension of the unencumbered space is no less than seven feet. In determining unencumbered space in the cell or room, the total square footage is obtained, and the square footage

Our mission is to provide public safety, promote positive change in offender behavior, reintegrate offenders into society, and assist victims of crime.

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of fixtures and equipment is subtracted. All fixtures and equipment must be in an operational position

A unit either meets the ACA standards or does not. The ACA does not specify the percentage of housing within the unit that complies. The ACA will grant a waiver when certain situations exist, such as a unit built before the standards were created. However, the waiver is granted to the unit rather than specific cells or dormitories.

2. In your report you state that “approximately sixty percent of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice housing areas afford each offender 36 square feet of unencumbered space.” Thinking only of dormitory accommodation that you say affords each offender 36 square feet of unencumbered space:

- a. How many offenders are accommodated in each dormitory unit?
- b. What is the size of each dormitory unit?
- c. What is the size of each cubicle?
- d. Are dormitory common areas such as day room areas, and passageways between cubicles (as distinct from the area within each cubicle) included within the calculation of unencumbered space per offender in the dormitories to which you refer?

a. TDCJ has several dormitory units with varying capacity to accommodate inmates. The maximum capacity for the different dormitory units ranges from 30 inmates to 112 inmates depending on the unit. Some dormitories are just a portion of the overall housing on the unit.

b. The size of the dormitory units vary. TDCJ does not publicly share the dimensions of our units for security reasons.

c. The size of each cubicle varies depending on the needs of the inmate housed in the cubicle. Some cubicles are designed to accommodate the medical needs of the inmate, such as the use of a wheelchair. The minimum cubicle size in use is 5'-0" by 10'-0". However, some TDCJ dormitories have cubicles in use as large as 7'-8" by 9'-10".

d. No. Dormitory common areas are not included within the calculation of unencumbered space for the inmate's housing area.

3. Can you confirm that the complete cell size (including all furnishing or fixtures) of regular cells (as opposed to dormitory units) that house two prisoners that you say meet the ACA standard for regular accommodation is 60 square feet?

No. The ACA 5th Edition requires a minimum of 25 square feet of unencumbered space per inmate for cells housing two inmates confined less than 10 hours per day. However, the ACA 5th Edition does not have a total square foot minimum for cells housing two inmates confined less than 10 hours per day. For cells housing two inmates confined more than 10 hours per day, the ACA requires an overall minimum of 80 square feet.

4. In dormitory unit are privacy screens provided for the toilet facilities?

Yes, there are privacy screens provided for the toilet facilities in a dormitory unit.

5. In regular cells (as opposed to dormitory units) are privacy screens for the toilet facilities?

No, there are not privacy screens provided for the toilet facilities in regular cells.

6. Are the ACA standard to which you refer publicly available?

The American Correctional Association has information listed on their website found at www.aca.org. Please refer to the website or contact the ACA at (703) 224-0000 or 206 N. Washington Street, Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22314, for more information on how to obtain a copy of the ACA standards.

7. Is there any information published by the TDCJ which sets out the number of cells, dormitory units and beds provided in your units and the extent to which they meet the appropriate ACA standard?

There is not information published by the TDCJ stating the exact information requested in this question. However, on the TDCJ's website located at www.tdcj.texas.gov the unit directory provides information on the TDCJ housing units, including the capacity of each unit and the year of the unit's ACA accreditation.

Finally, the U.K. defines unencumbered space differently than the American Correctional Association (ACA). The TDCJ has a mixture of both dormitory and cellblock housing. For housing areas allowing two individuals within the same shared space, approximately 87% of the inmate housing areas within the TDCJ have a minimum of three meters of unencumbered space utilizing the U.K. definition. Should there be a single inmate housed in the space, 100% of beds meet the requirement. Regardless of the inmate's housing assignment, every inmate has an assigned bunk and an individual sleeping space. An inmate may move freely around his assigned bunk and sleeping space.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Carol Eugene Monroe
Region VI Director
Correctional Institutions Division