



TENNESSEE CORRECTIONS INSTITUTE

2026 NEW SHERIFFS SCHOOL

THE JAIL IS YOURS. THE STANDARD IS THE FLOOR.

STANDARDS · POPULATION · INSPECTION · PLANS OF ACTION · TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE · PARTNERSHIP

SIX SECTIONS

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 - 04 PLANS OF ACTION
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TENNESSEE CODE AND THE ROLE OF TCI

Sheriff's duty · Appointing authority · Qualifications · Waivers



WHAT TCI IS

T.C.A. §§ 41-4-140 and 41-7-101 et seq.

- 1 Sets minimum standards — Chapter 1400-01
- 2 Inspects every jail, lock-up, workhouse yearly
- 3 Certifies officers and local academies (PC 609)
- 4 Grants pre-employment waivers — Board of Control
- 5 Reviews new-build and remodel plans before they are built



THE SHERIFF'S JAIL

T.C.A. § 8-8-201(a)(3)

“It is the sheriff’s duty to:”

“Take charge and custody of the jail of the sheriff’s county, and of the prisoners therein; receive those lawfully committed, and keep them personally, or by deputies or jailer, until discharged by law; be constantly at the jail, or have someone there, with the keys to liberate the prisoners in case of fire...”



APPOINTING AUTHORITY

T.C.A. §§ 41-4-101 and 41-4-144(b)

§ 41-4-101

“The sheriff of the county has, except in cases otherwise provided by law, the custody and charge of the jail of the county and of all prisoners committed to the jail and may appoint a jailer.”

§ 41-4-144(b)(1)–(2)

Qualifications “shall be mandatory and binding upon any municipality, county or political subdivision of this state.”

The appointor who knows the applicant does not qualify — and anyone who signs that paycheck — commits a Class A misdemeanor. Fine to \$1,000.



PRE-EMPLOYMENT QUALIFICATIONS

T.C.A. § 41-4-144 — NINE STATUTORY GATES

- At least 18 years of age
- Citizen of the United States
- High school diploma or GED
- No felony; no plea to force, violence, theft, dishonesty, gambling, liquor, or controlled-substance offenses
- No discharge other than honorable
- Fingerprints on file with TBI
- Passed a licensed physician's physical
- Good moral character — Sheriff's thorough investigation
- Psych clearance — free of a DSM impairment that blocks an essential function, with or without accommodation



WAIVER BEFORE THE BADGE

Rule 1400-04 · T.C.A. § 41-7-106

- 1 Flag hits — stop. No training. No promise of employment . No uniform.
- 2 Sheriff files. Applicant does not.
- 3 Packet to TCI.BOC@tn.gov · 30 days before the Board
- 4 No start date until the vote is granted
- 5 Hire first = Class A for the appointor and payroll



THE BOARD CANNOT WAIVE

T.C.A. § 41-7-106(g)

- 1 Felony conviction
- 2 Domestic assault
- 3 Dishonorable discharge
- 4 Mental impairment that blocks an essential function
- 5 Do not send those packets — the statute locked them



STATE OF TENNESSEE JAILS

Five-year trends · Mental health · Certification



TRENDS

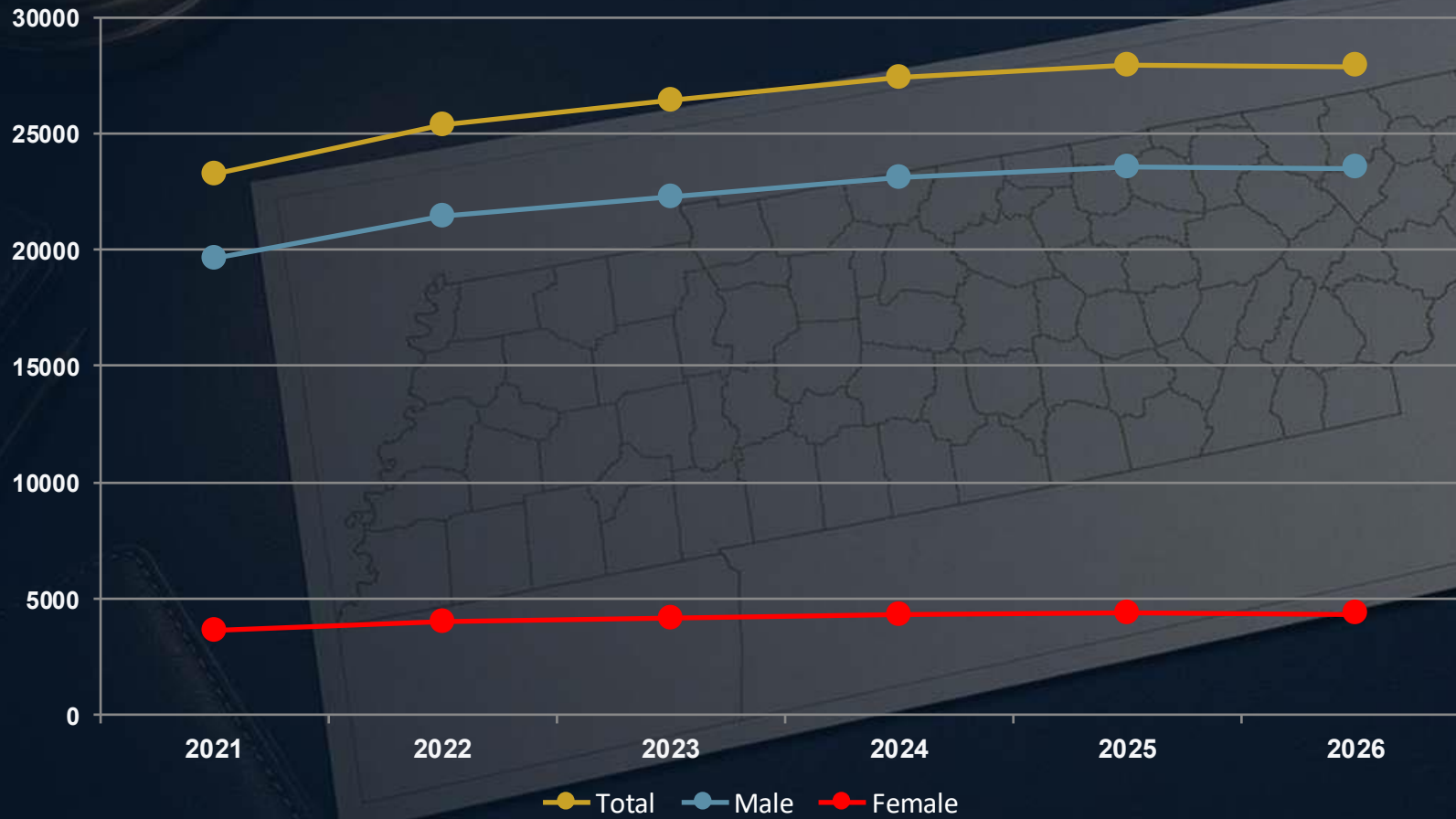
Source: TDOC monthly Jail Summary — last-day snapshots

- 1 Local jail census rebuilt after the COVID dip
- 2 June 30, 2026 snapshot: 27,910 in local custody
- 3 TDOC backup inside county jails: 4,763
- 4 Pretrial felony is the largest single slice
- 5 Capacity pressure is not evenly spread by county



JAIL POPULATION 2021–2026

Tennessee local jails, workhouses, and lock-ups · TDOC Jail Summary last-day counts



23,259

2021 TOTAL

27,910

2026 TOTAL

23,535

2026 MALE

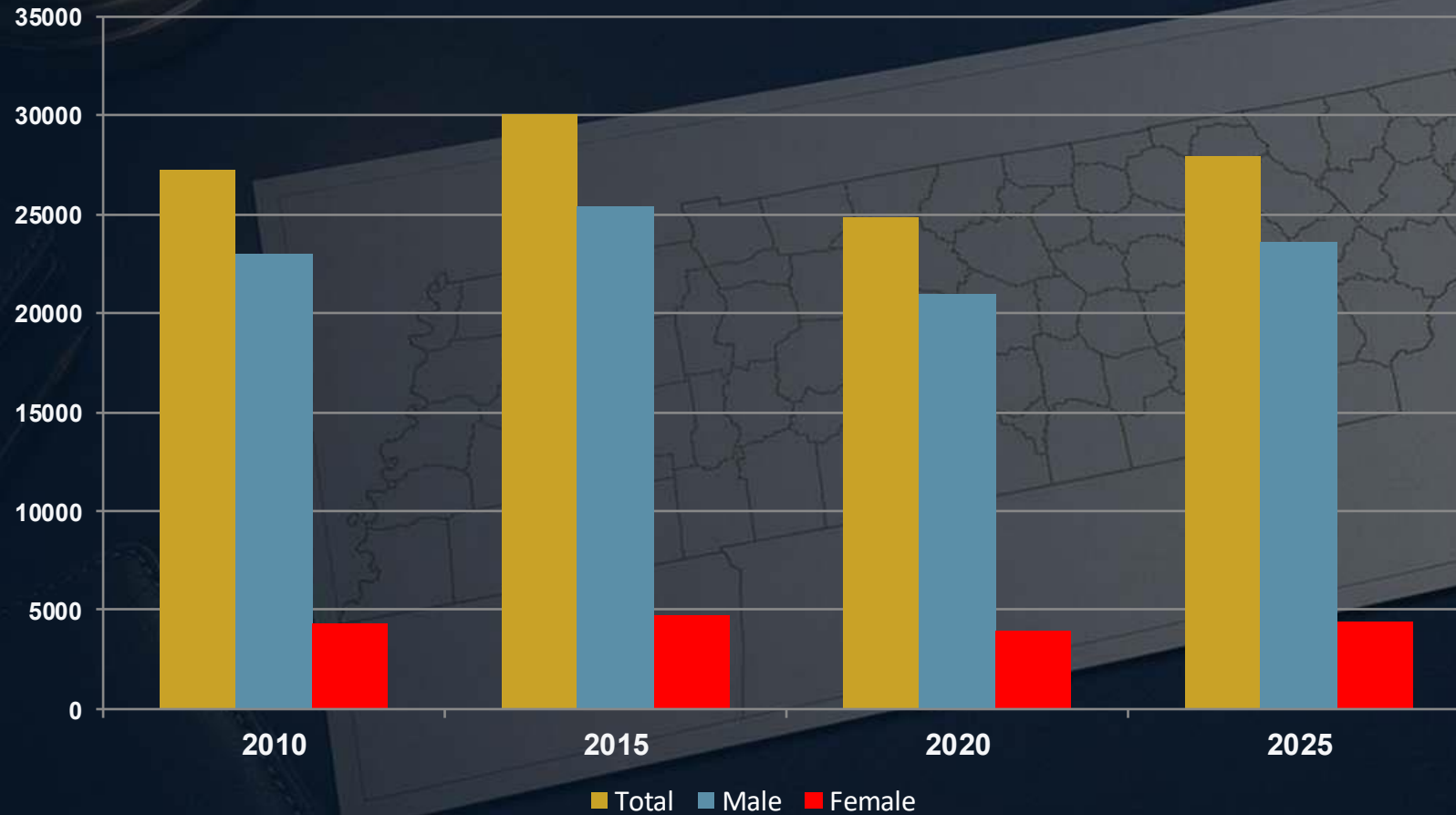
4,375

2026 FEMALE



JAIL POPULATION 2010 · 2015 · 2020 · 2025

Five-year marks · local jails statewide · male, female, and total

**27,200**

2010 TOTAL

30,100

2015 TOTAL

24,800

2020 TOTAL

27,940

2025 TOTAL



TDOC BACKUP IN LOCAL JAILS

Fiscal-year averages · 2010–2026 · felons sentenced to TDOC held in county jails



2,281

FY 2010

5,015

PEAK FY 2016

2,842

LOW FY 2022

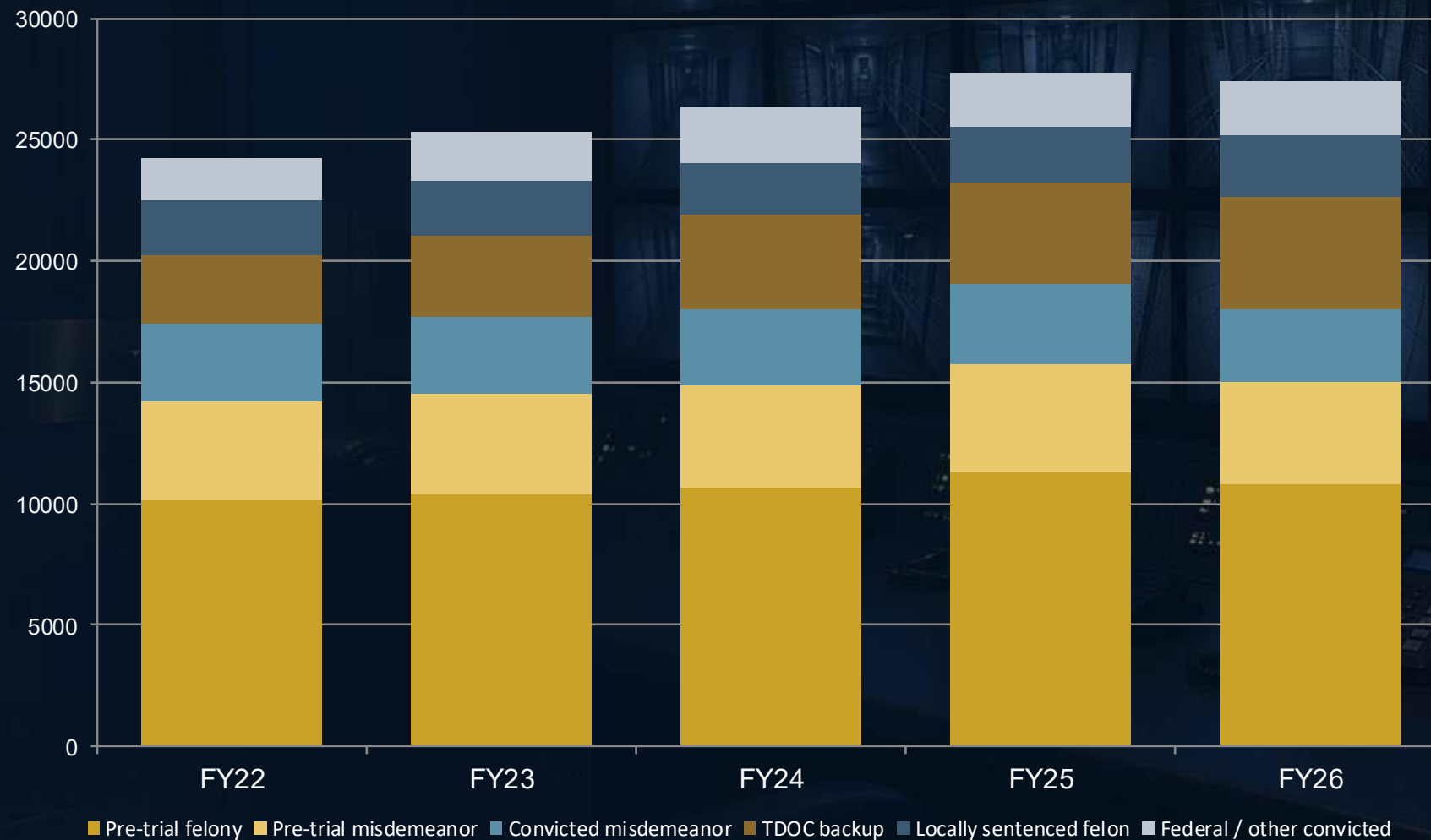
4,646

FY 2026 AVG



WHO IS IN THE JAIL • FIVE-YEAR MIX

TDOC Jail Summary fiscal-year averages • FY 2022 – FY 2026



~55%

PRE-TRIAL
Majority

4,646

TDOC BACKUP
FY26 average — rising

27,389

FY26 TOTAL
Jail Summary FY average

CAPACITY STATEWIDE

TDOC Jail Summary — June 30, 2026, snapshot



30

AT 100%+

11,551 people · 41.4%

3

95–99%

2,005 people

33

75–89%

6,401 people

31

50–74%

6,021 people

11

UNDER 50%

1,003 people

STATEWIDE LOCAL POPULATION 27,910

TDOC BACKUP IN COUNTY JAILS 4,763 · TCI-RATED CAPACITY SET AT INSPECTION

Capacity is the TCI-rated figure under T.C.A. § 41-4-140

MENTAL HEALTH BEDS

Public inpatient census, 1950s to now

~558,000

U.S. STATE HOSPITALS

Mid-1950s peak · ~300–330 / 100k

~8 / 100k

TENNESSEE RATE

Among the 13 lowest public inpatient states

~36,500

U.S. STATE HOSPITALS

2023 · ~11 / 100k · 92% drop

THE JAIL

BECAME THE WARD

Intake carries the overflow the hospital no longer takes





MENTAL HEALTH IN JAILS

- 1 ~44% of U.S. jail inmates report a MH history (BJS)
- 2 ~1 in 4 meet criteria for serious mental illness
- 3 TN public inpatient rate sits below national need
- 4 14-day health appraisal is a TCI standard — and a lawsuit exhibit
- 5 Suicide watch is a post, not a suggestion



STANDARDS AND INSPECTION REPORTS

Common findings · Unannounced cycle · Reinspection



TYPICAL DEFICIENCIES

Chapter 1400-01 · fourteen inspection areas

- 1 Fixed ratios — toilets, sinks, showers, square footage
- 2 Overcrowding that breaks classification and sex separation
- 3 Lighting, fire panels, cameras, and door status
- 4 Medical: 14-day appraisals, med accountability, contracts, watch logs
- 5 Staffing, training records, and sanitation logs



THE ANNUAL INSPECTION

- 1 Unannounced. No courtesy call. § 41-4-140.
- 2 Review the fourteen areas. Capacity may be reviewed. Walkthrough
- 3 Read policy, logs, FTACS, medical, operations, last findings.
- 4 Pattern of Compliance — or a deficiency is written.
- 5 You do not get ready the week they arrive.

REINSPECTION

- 1 Deficiencies remain — reinspection is required
- 2 Reinspection is announced
- 3 Inspectors return only to inspect the deficient areas
- 4 Corrected deficiencies noted; deficiencies can remain.
- 5 What is still open drives the Plan of Action or Decertification



CERTIFICATION STATUS

TCI inspects. The Board of Control certifies.

- 1 Certification is a Board vote — not an inspection letter
- 2 Where deficiencies remain, POA's or Decertification
- 3 A facility may remain certified on a POA, limited time, measurable progress
- 4 A reinspection doesn't mean you failed
- 5 Avoid Decertification



THIS WEEK

- 1 You were issued historic inspection reports
- 2 Review them with your county team
- 3 Write how you would fix each deficiency
- 4 More scenarios are on your tables
- 5 Thursday: each county presents its Plan of Action





PLANS OF ACTION

How they work · The new law · Monthly reporting

PUBLIC CHAPTER 609

Effective July 1, 2026 • T.C.A. § 41-4-140(d)



90 DAYS

File the POA after the initial annual inspection

12 MONTHS

Hard cap if reasonable effort would have fixed it

5 YEARS

Maximum without a unanimous Board vote

NO POA

Safety, security, or public-welfare findings



HOW A POA WORKS

- 1 Keeps a currently certified jail certified while you fix it
- 2 Covers fixed-ratio, staffing emergencies, capital, other non-life-safety
- 3 Application to the Board — TCI.BOC@tn.gov
- 4 Monthly progress to TCI staff. The Board watches the clock. Tracks to reduce liability
- 5 Lack of measurable progress and not meeting timelines jeopardizes certification



MONTHLY REPORTING

- 1 Same findings. Same owner. New evidence each month.
- 2 What moved. What did not. Why. Next 30 days.
- 3 Commission action, bid dates, hire dates — in writing
- 4 Reasonable effort is a record, not a speech
- 5 Staff will flag a silent month before the Board does



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

On-site help · Mock inspections · Policy · Training



WHAT TA DOES

Same 14 areas as the inspection — not the inspection

- 1 Site visits at your facility, not just phone calls or emails
- 2 Mock inspections on the areas that worry you
- 3 Policy reviews for standards compliance
- 4 Assistance with ideas or methods to resolve operational problems
- 5 Communication with local stakeholders



Frequent TA visits

The goal: TCI on site at each facility every month

- 1 A scheduled presence — not only when something breaks
- 2 Walk the concern before it becomes a deficiency
- 3 Leave with a punch list, not a report card
- 4 Ask early. TA is how you stay certified.
- 5 Request through TCI.BOC@tn.gov or your specialist



COUNTY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP

Stakeholders · Population · Design · Decisions



WHEN TO ENGAGE THE CCP

- 1 Repeat deficiencies, anticipation of trends or aging infrastructure
- 2 Facing loss of certification — or already off the list
- 3 The population, the courts and programs may be driving an increase
- 4 Expansion or a new facility is on the table
- 5 Stakeholders are not yet in the same room



WHAT CCP DOES

Voluntary. Collaborative. Decision-making stays local.

- 1 Puts sheriff, mayor, commission, courts, and partners at one table
- 2 Works population down — courts, diversion, programming
- 3 Supports expansion and new-facility design when that is the path
- 4 Snapshot, J.A.I.L., crisis management, transition
- 5 CCP is not an order to build



DESIGN REVIEW

Chapter 1400-01-.04(25) · plans submitted to TCI

- 1 TCI reviews every new-build and remodel plan
- 2 Physical-plant standards must be met before construction starts
- 3 State Fire Marshal reviews the same set
- 4 Design plans are reviewed for functionality and cost savings.
- 5 The county decides. TCI confirms compliance following the decision to build.



CLOSE

LEAVE WITH THESE RULES

- 1 The jail is yours. TCI measures it.
- 2 Waiver before the badge.
- 3 Inspection is unannounced. Reinspection is announced.
- 4 A POA is a clock, not a shelter.
- 5 Call TA before the finding. Call CCP before the crisis.

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