



TENNESSEE CORRECTIONS INSTITUTE

VOLUNTARY ACCREDITATION

ABOVE THE FLOOR · TIER 1 AND TIER 2 · WORK RELEASE



WHAT THIS BRIEFING COVERS

- 01 CERTIFICATION IS THE FLOOR — ACCREDITATION IS ABOVE IT
- 02 THE GOAL OF AN ACCREDITED TENNESSEE JAIL
- 03 TIER 1 AND TIER 2 — HOW THE STANDARDS WORK
- 04 WHAT THE PROCESS LOOKS LIKE
- 05 FINANCIAL REWARDS — THE ACCREDITATION STIPEND
- 06 LIABILITY — WHAT ACCREDITATION IS WORTH
- 07 WORK RELEASE — THE CODE AND HOW TO START ONE



TWO DIFFERENT SYSTEMS

CERTIFICATION

The floor.
Chapter 1400-01 minimum standards.
Annual unannounced inspection.
T.C.A. § 41-4-140.
Inspector recommends. Board votes.
Required of every Tennessee jail, lock-up,
and workhouse.

ACCREDITATION

Above the floor.
Chapter 1400-05 voluntary standards.
Tier 1 and Tier 2.
§ 41-4-140(a)(4) and § 41-8-106(i).
County applies. TCI audits.
Board votes the tier. TDOC is notified.



THE GOAL OF AN ACCREDITED JAIL

Chapter 1400-05-.01(2)

- 1 Evidence-based programming
- 2 Reentry that is more than a bus ticket and a garbage bag
- 3 Recidivism treated as a local public-safety number
- 4 Rehabilitation services staffed and scheduled — not a poster
- 5 Increased reimbursement for the state inmates you already house



WHERE THIS LIVES IN TENNESSEE LAW

- 1 T.C.A. § 41-4-140(a)(4) — TCI inspects for Tier 1 or Tier 2
- 2 T.C.A. § 41-8-106(i) — the accreditation stipend
- 3 Chapter 1400-05 — Voluntary Accreditation Standards
- 4 TDOC Rule 0420-02-03 — how the stipend is claimed
- 5 The Board of Control votes. TDOC pays. TCI does not write the check.

TIER 1 AND TIER 2

TIER 1

25 standards
5 mandatory + 20 optional
Pass: all 5 and 17 of 20
Stipend: \$6 / felon / day

TIER 2

Must already hold Tier 1
Another 25 standards
10 mandatory + 34 optional
overall
Stipend: \$12 / felon / day

THE FLOOR

Still Chapter 1400-01
Two continuous years
certified
A Plan of Action can count
No certificate, no
application





WHO MAY APPLY

- 1 Certified by TCI for two continuous years before you apply
- 2 A Plan of Action year can count toward those two years
- 3 You name the tier on the application — TCI does not guess
- 4 Instructions live on tn.gov/tci and can change
- 5 A facility below the floor does not get a tier. Fix certification first.



WHAT THE 25 STANDARDS LOOK AT

- 1 Written policy that you are certain can be accomplished
- 2 Officer training improvements, leadership development
- 3 Evidence-based programs — life skills, education, behavioral health
- 4 Medical services that match the population you house
- 5 Physical plant and staffing above the Chapter 1400-01 minimum- specific positions



WHAT THE PROCESS LOOKS LIKE

- 1 Apply and name the tier — instructions on the TCI site
- 2 Build the proof of implementation, you may already be doing it
- 3 TCI audit — deeper than the annual unannounced inspection
- 4 Score: all five mandatory and at least 17 of 20 optional
- 5 Board of Control votes at the next regular meeting



KEEPING THE TIER

- 1 It is not a lifetime plaque — Annual Process
- 2 October 1 — Annual Accreditation Stipend Report to TDOC
- 3 House convicted felons or the stipend has no one to attach to
- 4 Validated risk-needs assessment within 45 days of admission
- 5 Programs matched to the assessment — not a generic class list



FINANCIAL REWARDS

T.C.A. § 41-8-106(i) · TDOC Rule 0420-02-03-.14

\$6

TIER 1
per convicted felon, per day

\$12

TIER 2
per convicted felon, per day

ON TOP

of ordinary housing
reimbursement — not
instead of it

Claimed through TDOC / the Judicial Cost Accountant. Confirm the live rate sheet before a commission briefing.



WHAT ACCREDITATION DOES TO RISK

- 1 Jails carry most of local-government liability — nationally ~70%
- 2 The proof file is the defense: policy, training, classification, medical
- 3 A third-party audit and a Board vote are exhibits, not magic
- 4 It does not grant immunity and it will not save a silent year
- 5 Do not promise a premium cut the carrier has not put in writing



WORK RELEASE IN TENNESSEE LAW

T.C.A. §§ 41-2-127 through 41-2-148 · the sheriff applies · the court or commission orders



WHAT THE STATUTE ACTUALLY SAYS

- 1 The sheriff requests. A judge or the work-release commission orders. § 41-2-128
- 2 Wages go to a trust ledger — board, travel, dependents, in that order. § 41-2-129
- 3 The sentencing court may set terms the sheriff agrees to. § 41-2-129(d)
- 4 Failure to return on time is evidence of intent to escape. § 41-2-137
- 5 No inmate labor for the sheriff's pocket or a private shop unless the program is lawful. § 41-2-148



SMART PRACTICES FOR A NEW PROGRAM

- 1 Pick the legal path first — court order or a § 41-2-134 commission
- 2 Write the rules before the first person leaves. Commission approves them.
- 3 Screen for the statutory bars, escape risk, and a willing employer
- 4 Stand up the wage trust and the count procedure on day one
- 5 Start with sentenced misdemeanants who already have a job — then scale



WHAT GETS A PROGRAM KILLED

- 1 A sheriff granting release on his own — CTAS: the statute does not give that power
- 2 Private work that is not court-approved or commission-approved — § 41-2-148
- 3 No ledger for wages — the first lawsuit will ask for it
- 4 Second-offense DUI work release without the 128(c) conditions, including daily screens
- 5 No monthly report to the sentencing judge — § 41-2-138 is not optional



LEAVE WITH THESE RULES

- 1 Certification is the floor. Accreditation sits above it.
- 2 Two certified years. Then apply and name the tier.
- 3 The stipend follows the vote — \$6 or \$12 a day per felon.
- 4 Work release is a court or commission order — not a sheriff's favor.
- 5 The file that earns the money is the file that defends the suit.

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