

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)  
**Date:** Monday, November 18, 2024 3:38:36 PM

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**From:** Texas Sunset Advisory Commission <[sunset.website@brightleafgroup.com](mailto:sunset.website@brightleafgroup.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 18, 2024 2:53 PM  
**To:** Sunset Advisory Commission <[sunset@sunset.texas.gov](mailto:sunset@sunset.texas.gov)>  
**Subject:** Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)

Submitted on Mon, 11/18/2024 - 11:41

Submitted by: Visitor

Submitted values are:

**Choose the agency that you would like to provide input about**

[Texas Department of Criminal Justice](#)

#### **Public Comments**

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#### **First Name**

Tina

#### **Last Name**

Barrow

#### **Email**

#### **City**

Newton

#### **State**

Texas

#### **Your Comments or Concerns**

Good day esteemed members of the Sunset review committee,

My name is Tina Barrow. I am speaking on behalf of my son Nathaniel Caleb Barrow. Nathaniel was born with Intellectual Developmental Delay, Autism Spectrum disorder and ADHD. He has an IQ below 70. His adaptive behavior age at 21 was 9 years old. At the age of 17 years old he sustained a traumatic brain injury due to an accident in which he had to be life flighted to St. Elizabeth Hospital

in Beaumont, TX. Since Nathaniel's incarceration he has experienced violent assaults and trauma that he still has not been medically and/or mentally treated for. These recent violent events while in TDCJ custody have only exacerbated his prior disabilities and symptoms. His life long disabilities and ongoing trauma experienced at TDCJ have further affected his cognitive ability, making it very hard to adapt to the TDCJ environment.

Upon entry to TDCJ in 2018 Nathaniel was screened and approved for the Developmental Delay Program. Despite Nathaniel's obvious disabilities he has since been wrongly classified, stripped of his heat score and sent to short staffed, drug infested units where he experienced violence, severe heat illness, untreated wounds, lack of proper nutrition and lack of rehabilitation according to his capabilities. Nathaniel wants to work and participate in his rehabilitation but needs opportunity and access according to his needs and capability. There are also communication barriers with staff members not being able to identify him as having Intellectual Development Disabilities. He has a lot of facial tattoos, a hard time being still when under stress, and showing frustration when having a hard time expressing his concerns verbally. This can be wrongly perceived by others as anger or some other behavior. None of his convictions are aggravated charges and he does not like violence.

During Nathaniel's incarceration he has had to file grievances against certain TDCJ staff on 2-3 separate occasions where a staff member(s) wrote false cases. This criminal act on the part of any TDCJ staff affects the incarcerated individuals housing, access to communication, mental and physical health and also their parole. TDCJ staff hold the incarcerated individuals very FREEDOM in their hands. This is an all too frequent occurrence and it is criminal. They should not have that kind of power without proof verified by a body worn camera. Nathaniel is always quick to point out the positive staff members at TDCJ. He does not file frivolous complaints, yet still he has never received justice after filing a step 1 and step 2 grievance. He also went through the experience of being denied ability to file his Step 1 grievance in time. Another practice more common than one would think. TDCJ staff should not be allowed to deny an incarcerated person their right to due process.

It has been months since the assaults. We are still waiting for him to be seen in Galveston-UTMB for a CT head scan and Neurologist. It should not take this long for medical care. Also, Nathaniel has submitted an I-60 request for DDP at Hodge unit or Neuro Cognitive Disorder program at Scott unit. He is also in the grievance process regarding a false case given by a certain staff member where he is currently assigned. We are hoping this time he will be allowed his right for due process and that his concerns will not fall on deaf ears again.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I have noted proposed solutions as stated below. I can be reached at \_\_\_\_\_ or by phone at \_\_\_\_\_.

Best regards,  
Tina Barrow

**Your Proposed Solution**

- Proper classification assignment for individuals with Intellectual Development Disabilities
- Proper heat score calculation
- Policy not allowing a major case to be written by TDCJ staff against an incarcerated individual

without cameras "proof"

Adherence to policy regarding Mental Health recommendation before internal disciplinary court proceedings

Mobile CAT/MRI scans, and other mobile medical services

**My Comments Will Be Made Public**

Yes