# DISRUPTIVE GROUPS

## **7.1.0 Unit Goal:** Summarize issues involving security threat groups.

## **7.1.1 Learning Objective:** Define security threat groups.

1. A security threat group is any group that meets the definition of a criminal street gang as defined by the Texas Penal Code §71.01.
2. Criminal street gang - three or more persons having a common identifying sign or symbol or an identifiable leadership who continuously or regularly associate in the commission of criminal activities (PC §71.01).

## **7.1.2 Learning Objective:** List criteria for confirming criminal street gang membership.

1. Confirmation criteria for confirming membership in a criminal street gang are listed in Texas Code of Criminal Procedure §61.02.
2. To confirm membership in a criminal street gang with only a single identifier the following criteria must be met:
   1. Be found guilty of an offense committed as a member of a criminal street gang; or
   2. Self-admission as a member of a criminal street gang, made under oath, during a judicial proceeding.
3. If unable to confirm using a single criteria then at least two of the following criteria must be met:
   1. A self-admission by the individual of criminal street gang membership that is not made during a judicial proceeding, including the use of the internet or other electronic format or medium to post photographs or other documentation identifying the individual as a member of a criminal street gang;
   2. An identification of the individual as a criminal street gang member by a reliable informant or other individual;
   3. A corroborated identification of the individual as a criminal street gang member by an informant or other individual of unknown reliability;
   4. Evidence that the individual frequents a documented area of a criminal street gang and associates with known criminal street gang members;
   5. Evidence that the individual uses, in more than an incidental manner, criminal street gang dress, hand signals, tattoos, or symbols, including expressions of letters, numbers, words, or marks, regardless of how or the means by which the symbols are displayed, that are associated with a criminal street gang that operates in an area frequented by the individual;
   6. Evidence that the individual has been arrested or taken into custody with known criminal street gang members for an offense or conduct consistent with criminal street gang activity;
   7. Evidence that the individual has visited a known criminal street gang member, other than a family member of the individual, while the gang member is confined in or committed to a penal institution; or
   8. Evidence of the individual's use of technology, including the internet, to recruit new criminal street gang members.

## **7.1.3 Learning Objective:** List warning signs of gang activity.

1. Inmate on inmate assaults
2. Inmates assaulting staff members
3. Request for housing assignment changes
4. Self-mutilations
5. Body tattoos
6. Gang-related apparel
7. Inmate graffiti
8. Inmate groupings at feeding, at recreation, and in housing
9. Information from informants
10. Information from law enforcement agencies

## **7.1.4 Learning Objective:** Identify various criminal street gangs.

1. Texas Syndicate
   1. Predominantly Mexican male; some white
   2. Para-military in structure
2. Aryan Brotherhood of Texas
   1. Exclusively for white inmates
   2. White supremacist philosophy
   3. Has an executive committee composed of five steering committee members
3. Mexikanemi - Texas Mexican Mafia (Note: Mexicanemi = California Mexican Mafia)
   1. Exclusively for Hispanic inmates
   2. Members are primarily from the Houston, San Antonio, and El Paso areas
   3. Para-military in structure
4. Barrio Azteca
   1. Started in the Coffield Unit of TDCJ by five gang members of the “X14” group from El Paso
   2. Paramilitary in structure
5. Crips
6. Identify with the color blue
7. Uses the letter “C” to replace the letter “B” in conversations and writings.
8. Gang members will write blue graffiti on walls in the neighborhood to mark their particular territorial boundaries
9. Bloods - This gang is also referred to as the “Pirus” because they originated on Piru Street. The "Bloods" developed in an effort to protect themselves from the “Crips” and have become the principal rival of the “Crips.”
   1. Identify with the color red
   2. Use the term “Blood” to identify one another
   3. Graffiti writings are done in red
10. Tango Cliques
    1. The word “Tango” is slang for “Hometown”
    2. The differences between “Tango” Cliques and established prison gangs:
       1. Lacks a central leadership
       2. Limited criminal justice experience
       3. Are high profile
       4. Not recognized by TDCJ as an organized group and are housed in general population
       5. Once they leave TDCJ, there’s no binding tie with the clique
    3. “Tango Blast” is the coalition of Tango Cliques
    4. “Tango” Cliques include:
11. Houston
12. Dallas
13. Austin
14. Ft. Worth
15. West Texas
16. Rio Grande Valley
17. San Antonio
18. El Paso
19. Corpus Christi

***Instructor Note:*** *Add any additional gangs you have in your jurisdiction(s) and refer to the Appendix for an example of a confirmation sheet.*

# CLASSIFICATION

## **7.2.0 Unit Goal:** Summarize the process of classifying inmates.

## **7.2.1 Learning Objective:** Define objective classifications.

Definition of objective classification – a formal process for separating and managing inmates. The process relies on trained classification staff, use of reliable and valid data, and conducting process assessment and outcome evaluation.

## **7.2.2 Learning Objective:** Factors that shall be considered in classification.

**TCJS 271.1 – Objective Classification Plan**

Each sheriff/operator shall develop and implement an objective classification plan approved by the Commission. The plan shall include principles, procedures, instruments, and explanations for classification assessments, housing assignments, reassessments, and inmate needs. The following principles and procedures shall be addressed:

1. Inmates shall be classified and housed in the least restrictive housing available without jeopardizing staff, inmates, or the public, utilizing risk factors which include any or all of the following:
2. Current offense or conviction
3. Offense history
4. Escape history
5. Institutional disciplinary history
6. Prior convictions
7. Alcohol and/or drug abuse
8. Stability factors
9. Classification criteria shall not include race, ethnicity, or religious preference.
10. Custody levels and special housing needs shall be assessed to include minimum, medium, and maximum custody levels and the placement and release of inmates to and from special units including protective custody, administrative separation, disciplinary separation, and mental and medical health housing including known pregnant inmates.
11. Minimum and maximum custody level inmates shall be housed separately. All other custody level inmates should be housed separately. When under direct, visual supervision, inmates of different custody levels may simultaneously participate in work and program activities.
12. Juveniles shall be separated by sight and sound from adults in accordance with Family Code §51.12.
13. Female inmates shall be separated by sight and sound from male inmates. When under direct, visual and *proximate* supervision, males and females may simultaneously participate in work and program activities.

***Instructor Note:*** *Proximate is defined as very near or close.*

Source: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/proximate>

1. When housed together and separately from all other inmates, contracted TDCJ-ID and federal inmates may be classified solely by approved TDCJ-ID and federal classification policies and procedures, respectively. Housing units for contracted TDCJ-ID and federal inmates shall be approved by TDCJ-ID and federal officials, respectively, to ensure that the inmates' custody level does not exceed the construction security level of the assigned housing.
2. The following shall apply to prisoners in transit:
3. An inmate is a prisoner in transit if the agency charged with the custody of the inmate is transporting the inmate from one jail or detention facility to another jail or detention facility;
4. When housed together and separately from all other inmates, prisoners in transit transported by another agency may be temporarily housed in a facility if the transporting agency provides a written statement that the prisoners can be safely housed together;
5. When housed, they shall be confined in maximum construction level housing;
6. Females shall be separated by sight and sound from males;
7. Observation shall be performed at least every 30 minutes;
8. They shall not be held in a facility for more than 48 consecutive hours;
9. The facility providing temporary housing is not required to check prisoners in transit against the Department of State Health Services’ CCQ system to determine if the prisoner has previously received state mental healthcare; and
10. A transporting agency may include a private correctional company engaged in the transportation of prisoners.
11. Persons assigned to a detoxification cell shall be transferred to a housing or holding area as soon as they can properly care for themselves.
12. The status of persons confined to a violent cell shall be reassessed and documented at least every 24 hours for continuance of status.
13. Inmates who require protection or those who require separation to protect the safety and security of the facility may be housed in administrative separation. The status of inmates placed in administrative separation shall be reviewed and documented at least every 30 days for continuance of status. Inmates housed in administrative separation shall retain access to services and activities, unless the continuance of the services and activities would adversely affect the safety and security of the facility.
14. Single cells may be utilized for disciplinary or administrative separation. Inmates in administrative separation shall be provided access to a day room for at least one hour each day. Inmates in disciplinary separation shall be provided a shower every other day.

## **7.2.3 Learning Objective:** Describe approved classification instruments.

* + - 1. The following classification procedures shall be conducted utilizing the approved classification instruments:
      2. Intake Screening - to be completed immediately on all inmates admitted for purposes of identifying any medical, mental health, or other special needs that require placing inmates in special housing units.

* + - 1. Initial Custody Assessment - to be completed on all newly admitted inmates prior to housing assignments to determine custody levels.
      2. Custody Reassessment/Review - a custody reassessment shall be conducted within 30-90 days of the Initial Custody Assessment and immediately upon any disciplinary action and/or change in legal status that would affect classification. A documented classification review to determine the necessity for a complete reassessment shall be conducted every 30-90 days thereafter.
      3. A Needs Assessment Instrument may be used to assess the needs and qualifications of inmates for participation in vocational, educational, mental health, substance abuse, and other treatment or work programs.

***Instructor Note:*** *Provide examples of a Needs Assessment Instrument. Refer to the Appendix for examples.*

## **7.2.4 Learning Objective:** Define the three custody levels.

1. Maximum Custody Level (High and Close Custody – Levels 1-2):Inmates receiving a maximum custody level assessment are identified as those usually confined for serious offenses of violence, who possess an extensive level of criminal sophistication, and who may or may not have demonstrated a propensity for violence in an institutional setting. Such inmates require close supervision and maximum security.
2. Medium Custody Level (Medium Assaultive and Escape, Medium and Medium Pre-Sentenced – Levels 3-5):Inmates receiving a medium custody level assessment are identified as those usually confined for felony offenses, who possess a moderate level of criminal sophistication, and who have not demonstrated a propensity for violence in an institutional setting. Such inmates require moderate supervision, may participate in certain work and program activities, and qualify for medium security.
3. Minimum Custody Level (Minimum, Low Minimum and Very Low Minimum – Levels 6-9): Inmates receiving a minimum custody level assessment are identified as those usually confined for lesser offenses, who possess a lower level of criminal sophistication, and who have not demonstrated a propensity for violence in an institutional setting or a disregard for the institutional rules and regulations. Such inmates require less supervision, may participate in work and program activities, and qualify for minimum security.

## **7.2.5 Learning Objective:** List advantages for using an Objective Jail Classification System.

Advantages of an Objective Jail Classification System include:

1. Less costly jail construction, by placing inmates in less restrictive housing units based on their custody levels.

1. Redistribution of personnel according to the custody requirements of inmates, which permits better daily administration and crisis management.
2. Inmate specific data generated by the classification system can be used for:
3. Ongoing management
4. Planning
5. Policy development
6. Improved security and control of inmates.
7. Provides information for monitoring and evaluating program goals and personnel needs.
8. Assists in population management by identifying groups of inmates who may be eligible for various release programs.
9. Establishes an orderly method for assessing the varied needs and requirements of each inmate from a commitment to release.
10. Helps to improve the level of safety for staff and inmates.
11. Decrease in agency liability:
12. Proactive approach
13. Minimize inmate victimization
14. Decrease in staff assaults
15. Minimize biases and prejudice

***Instructor Note:*** *Refer to the Appendix for point additive scale and decision tree.*

## **7.2.6 Learning Objective:** Identify key components of an Objective Jail Classification System.

**Essential components include:**

1. Classification instruments (forms) that use reliable and valid criteria (TCJS 271.1 (b) (c)) - <http://www.tcjs.state.tx.us/docs/PointAdditiveReassessment.pdf>;
2. Appropriate use of overrides;

***Instructor Note:*** *Define “overrides” and refer to the Appendix for override form.*

*Example:*

If it is determined that circumstances require a deviation from the Reclassification Decision Tree, resulting in a security designation that is other than what would routinely occur by following the tree, it is designated an override.If you find it necessary to override the reclassification tree, complete the tree through the normal procedure, then circle the appropriate override custody level (on the manual form) and note your reason in the designated area.

1. Sufficient staff trained and dedicated to classification functions (TCJS 271.3) – 4 hours minimum required by standards;
2. A housing plan consistent with the classification needs, physical plant design, and security requirements; and
3. Periodic formal evaluations of the OJC system (TCJS 271.7)

Audits shall be conducted annually at minimum:

1. Inmates are classified prior to placement in inmate housing;
2. Inmates are housed according to their assigned custody levels;
3. The override rate is acceptable; and
4. Classification instruments are completed in an accurate and timely manner.

## **7.2.7 Learning Objective:** Identify the two approved jail classification methods.

Two dominant approaches in objective classification systems are:

A. Decision tree - The decision tree assigns inmates to categories that are clearly defined by splits on the tree. There is high precision and clarity in the meaning of each category.

B. Point additive scale - The point additive scale produces categories by assigning points to various established criteria.

## **7.2.8 Learning Objective:** Identify a composite of information useful for classifying an inmate.

Classification of an inmate is derived from a composite of information obtained from:

A. Observing the inmate

B. Booking forms

C. Inmate medical record

D. Delivering officer and/or arrest report

E. Inmate’s prior arrest files

F. TCIC/NCIC network information

G. Interviewing the inmate

H. Risk factors observed

## **7.2.9 Learning Objective:** Identify risk factors which may impact housing.

Risk factors which may impact housing include:

1. Suicidal/self-harm risk
2. Intellectually and developmentally disabled
3. Physical impairments and limitations
4. Protective custody
5. Escape threat
6. Assaultive
7. Withdrawal concerns
8. Medical
9. Known gang affiliation
10. Known management problem
11. Juvenile certified as an adult
12. Predatory inmates/inmates vulnerable to victimization

## **7.2.10 Learning Objective:** Identify methods for assigning inmates to cell according to classification.

1. Refer to departmental classification plan and housing scheme as approved by Texas Commission on Jail Standards.
2. Assign inmate to housing:
3. Pod/Dorm
4. Cell
5. Bunk
6. Note assignment on inmate's record.
7. Refer to departmental policy for additional responsibilities.

## **7.2.11 Learning Objective:** List methods for reviewing a master roster of inmates during cell assignments.

A. Departmental policy should indicate how to use the master roster for this purpose.

B. Review and update master roster daily.

## **7.2.12 Learning Objective:** Define requirements regarding reclassification.

TCJS 271.1(b) (3) requires that an inmate’s classification be reviewed every 30-90 days. Factors that would require reclassification of an inmate:

1. Immediately upon disciplinary convictions;
2. Immediately upon a change in legal status which would affect classification (sentenced, new charges, charges dismissed while in custody, etc.); and
3. Within a minimum of 30 days from initial placement in administrative separation and every 30 days after for continuation of status until rehoused to general population.

## **7.2.13 Learning Objective:** Identify reasons for updating inmate records.

Reasons for updating inmate records include:

1. Possible reclassification
2. Bonding purposes
3. Health purposes
4. Release purposes
5. Out of County/State/Agency holds
6. For exchanges of conduct information between other officers and facilities
7. Complete record forwarded to TDCJ

## **7.2.14 Learning Objective:** Define trustee.

Definition of “trustee” - a person who, because of good conduct, is given some measure of freedom in and around the prison or jail. (Black's Law Dictionary)

## **7.2.15 Learning Objective:** Identify methods of determining the eligibility of an inmate for a trustee assignment.

1. Classification
2. Behavior while in confinement
3. Type of work to be performed
4. Interview of inmate

## **7.2.16 Learning Objective:** Identify legal requirements regarding work assignments.

1. Work assignments must be voluntary for pretrial detainees and inmates sentenced to TDCJ-ID. (TCJS 289.2 - Voluntary Work).

Inmates can be required to keep their living areas clean.

1. Inmates should not be required to work more than 48 hours per week, except in an emergency (TCJS [289.3](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=37&pt=9&ch=289&rl=3)).
2. CCP §42.10 - Satisfaction of judgment as in misdemeanor convictions: When a person is convicted of a felony, and the punishment assessed is only a fine or a term in jail, or both, the judgment may be satisfied in the same manner as a conviction for a misdemeanor is by law satisfied.
3. CCP §43.09 (a) – A defendant who performs labor under this article during a day in which he is confined is entitled to both the credit for confinement and the credit for labor provided by this article.

Note: Full citation at: <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/CR/htm/CR.43.htm>

1. CCP §43.101 - Voluntary work:
2. A defendant confined in county jail awaiting trial or a defendant confined in county jail after conviction of a felony or revocation of community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision and awaiting transfer to the institutional division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice may volunteer to participate in any work program operated by the sheriff that uses the labor of convicted defendants.
3. The sheriff may accept a defendant as a volunteer under Subsection (a) of this section if the defendant is not awaiting trial for an offense involving violence or is not awaiting transfer to the institutional division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice after conviction of a felony involving violence, and if the sheriff determines that the inmate has not engaged previously in violent conduct and does not pose a security risk to the general public if allowed to participate in the work program.
4. A defendant participating in a work program under this section is not an employee for the purposes of Chapter 501 or 504, Labor Code.

## **7.2.17 Learning Objective:** Define child.

Family Code §51.02 (2): "Child" means a person who is: ten years of age or older and under 17 years of age.

TCJS 271.1 (5): Juveniles shall be separated by sight and sound from adults in accordance with Family Code §51.12.

## **7.2.18 Learning Objective:** Define procedures used when encountering a suspected juvenile.

1. Separate inmate from all other inmates until proper age can be determined and notify supervisor.
2. Conduct a two-finger look up through AFIS.
3. If no identification through AFIS is returned, conduct the following steps:

1. Examine identification;

2. Interview inmate by asking their date of birth and comparing age given;

3. Contact juvenile officer/department for possible verification of age; and

4. Contact school district/campus resource officer.

1. If determined the individual is a juvenile, ensure any and all documents are expunged and or discarded.

# APPENDIX

***Instructor Note:*** *Use current TCJS Classification forms for classification exercises. All forms can be located at:* [*http://www.tcjs.state.tx.us/index.php?linkID=235*](http://www.tcjs.state.tx.us/index.php?linkID=235)*.*

1. Offense Severity Scale
2. Point Additive
   1. Initial
   2. Reassessment
3. Decision Tree
   1. Initial Page 1
   2. Initial Page 2
   3. Reassessment Page 1
   4. Reassessment Page 2

**Scenario Recommendations for Case Studies:** The instructor will organize each group into a minimum of 3 students per group. One student will role play the officer conducting the classification interview. One student will role play the inmate. Remaining student(s) will be an observer noting risk factors to be utilized during classification. Instructor will have students conduct initial classifications and reassessments utilizing point additive, decision tree, and appropriate reassessment forms. Students will rotate roles in which they participate.

## **Case Study 1:**

**Subject:** 35 year old W/M

**Current Charge**: Aggravated Assault w/ Deadly Weapon

Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle

**Priors:** Unlawful Carrying Weapon (Convicted one year ago)

Misdemeanor Terroristic Threats (Deferred Adjudication two years ago)

Public Lewdness (Convicted seven years ago)

**Disciplinary History:** None

**Detainer/Warrant:** Yes (USMS)

**Community Ties/Employment:** Lived and worked in area for 5 yrs.

**Inmate Behaviors:** Defiant, disinterested in the process, disrespectful

**Inmate Appearance:** White muscle shirt, 3 leaf clover tattoo on left forearm, lightning bolt tattoos on chest, “Doc Martin” boots with red laces.

**(Point Additive) (Decision Tree) (Reassessment)**

## **Case Study 1A: Reassessment**

* Routine 30 to 90 day reassessment
* No disciplinary
* No behavioral problems
* Positive Attitude

(**Point Additive) (Decision Tree) (Next Reassessment Example)**

## **Case Study 1B: Reassessment**

The Sheriff called and wants the inmate to be made an outside working inmate. He has known the family a long time. Can you override?

**(Point Additive) (Decision Tree)**

## **Case Study 2:**

**Subject:** 44 year old B/M

**Current Charge:** Theft of Service

Felony Possession of a Controlled Substance PG1

**Priors:**  Misdemeanor Possession of CS (Convicted one year ago)

Manufacturing/Del of CS PG (all amounts) (Convicted two years ago)

Delivery of Marijuana < ¼ oz. Drug Free Zone (Convicted four years ago)

**Disciplinary History:** Yes-Hindering Jail Operation/Fighting

**Detainer/Warrant:** No

**Community Ties/Employment:** Lived and worked in area for 2 months.

**Inmate Behaviors:** Lethargic, slurred speech, poor memory, scratching arms

**Inmate Appearance:** dilated pupils, dirty clothing, sweating profusely

(**Point Additive) (Decision Tree) (Reassessment)**

## **Case Study 2A: Reassessment**

You receive a TTY from another county advising to place a hold for involuntary manslaughter.

(**Point Additive) (Decision Tree) (Next Reassessment Example)**

## **Case Study 2B: Reassessment**

Inmate is scheduled for a routine reassessment. There are no additional disciplinary incidents or change in legal status

(**Point Additive) (Decision Tree)**

## **Case Study 3:**

**Subject:** 42 year old H/M

**Current Charge:** Robbery

**Priors:** Aggravated Assault on a Peace Officer (Convicted 3 years ago)

**Disciplinary History:** None

**Detainer/Warrant:** Yes (ICE)

**Community Ties/Employment:** Lived and worked in area for 10 yrs.

**Inmate Behaviors:** Compliant with process, quiet, limited English

**Inmate Appearance:** clean shaven, well groomed

(**Point Additive) (Decision Tree) (Reassessment)**

## **Case Study 3A: Reassessment**

Indictment was received on current change. Inmate was indicted for felony theft. ICE has dropped their detainer.

(**Point Additive) (Decision Tree) (Next Reassessment Example)**

## **Case Study 3B: Reassessment**

Inmate was placed on Administrative Separation pending the decision from the Disciplinary Board for violating the facility rules. Violations are for fighting and disrespect to staff.

(**Point Additive) (Decision Tree)**

## **Case Study 4:**

**Subject:** 38 year old W/F

**Current Charge:** Trafficking a Person

Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle

**Priors:** Felony Unlawful Carrying Weapon (Convicted 3 years ago)

Escaped from Texas Youth Commission

**Disciplinary History:** None

**Detainer/Warrant:** None

**Community Ties/Employment:** Not from the area.

**Inmate Behaviors:** Depressed, holding back tears, failing to make eye contact, arms crossed, withdrawn

**Inmate Appearance:** Numerous razor blade scars on both inner arms, disheveled hair, smeared make up

(**Point Additive) (Decision Tree) (Reassessment)**

## **Case Study 4A: Reassessment**

Received information from TYC that the “escape” charge was incorrectly reported to DPS and it was actually a walk away

(**Point Additive) (Decision Tree) (Next Reassessment Example)**

## **Case Study 4B: Reassessment**

Received disciplinary conviction for assault on staff. No criminal charges were filed.

(**Point Additive) (Decision Tree)**

## **Case Study 5:**

**Subject:** 24 A/M

**Current Charge:** Prostitution

Solicitation of a minor

**Priors:** None

**Disciplinary History:** Yes- Sexual Activity

**Detainer/Warrant:** None

**Community Ties/Employment:** Yes - Educator

**Inmate Behavior:** Flamboyant, Effeminate, Animated

**Inmate Appearance:** Long hair, no facial or body hair, manicured nails, wearing leggings and heels

(**Point Additive) (Decision Tree) (Reassessment)**

**Case Study 5A: Reassessment**

Received detainer from New Mexico for Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child.

(**Point Additive) (Decision Tree) (Next Reassessment Example)**

## **Case Study 5B: Reassessment**

Inmate claimed to be the victim of sexual assault in the facility.

(**Point Additive) (Decision Tree)**