

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



**Standard Operating Procedures**

**Policy Name:** Medical Reprieves

**Policy Number:** 507.04.66

**Effective Date:** 5/31/2023

**Page Number:** 1 of 4

**Authority:**  
Commissioner

**Originating Division:**  
Health Services Division  
(Physical Health)

**Access Listing:**  
Level I: All Access

**I. Introduction and Summary:**

Medical Reprieves will be considered for offenders with terminal illnesses and for offenders with serious medical conditions that are not reversible with current medical therapy or are resource intensive and who are no longer a threat to public safety. This procedure is applicable to all facilities that house state offenders to include private and county prisons.

**II. Authority:**

- A. NCCHC Adult Standard: P-F-07; and
- B. ACA Standard: 5-ACI-6A-07.

**III. Definitions:**

**Medical Reprieve** - Temporary suspension of a prison sentence to release an offender under conditions, which if violated, permit his or her reimprisonment.

**IV. Statement of Policy and Applicable Procedures:**

- A. Criteria for Medical Reprieve:
  - 1. Offenders who may be considered for Medical Reprieve include those who are assessed to no longer pose a threat to society with:
    - a. Terminal illness.
    - b. Serious medical conditions that are resource intensive.
    - c. Serious medical conditions that are not reversible with current medical therapy; and/or
    - d. Dementia or severe cognitive deficits.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



**Standard Operating Procedures**

**Policy Name:** Medical Reprieves

**Policy Number:** 507.04.66

**Effective Date:** 5/31/2023

**Page Number:** 2 of 4

**Authority:**  
Commissioner

**Originating Division:**  
Health Services Division  
(Physical Health)

**Access Listing:**  
Level I: All Access

2. Physicians responsible for requesting Medical Reprieves will only consider the medical status of the offender in determining eligibility.
- B. Requesting a Medical Reprieve: This procedure does not create a right to be reprieved for anyone. Only the responsible physician may initiate a Medical Reprieve at his/her discretion.
1. The responsible physician or designee at the facility to which the offender is assigned will initiate requests for Medical Reprieve.
  2. Offenders being considered for a Medical Reprieve will have to sign a Release of Information permitting the responsible physician to share information with employees directly involved in processing the request, such as counselors, warden, etc.
  3. The responsible health authority or designee will send an email to the OHS Medical Reprieve Coordinator to verify the offender would be eligible for a Medical Reprieve. Offender name, GDC#, and health issues should be included.
  4. The OHS Medical Reprieve Coordinator will respond back to the facility with eligibility status.
  5. The physician will complete a Request for Medical Reprieve Consideration. The physician will ensure that all information on the request is accurate and will note the initiation of the Medical Reprieve process on the Problem List. A copy of the request form will be retained in the health record.
  6. The physician will document supporting evidence required such as biopsy, operative, x-ray, or consultation reports, etc.
  7. The request form will be sent to the counselor, who will explore resources such as whether appropriate housing and medical care could be obtained in the community if the offender were granted a Medical Reprieve. Resources such

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



**Standard Operating Procedures**

**Policy Name:** Medical Reprieves

**Policy Number:** 507.04.66

**Effective Date:** 5/31/2023

**Page Number:** 3 of 4

**Authority:**  
Commissioner

**Originating Division:**  
Health Services Division  
(Physical Health)

**Access Listing:**  
Level I: All Access

as housing, hospice, or nursing homes may be contacted for assistance. The counselor will also start the Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicaid/Medicare application process.

8. The Request for Medical Reprieve Consideration will be sent to the Warden/Superintendent who will or will not recommend a Medical Reprieve. The recommendation of the Warden/Superintendent will only consider institutional behavior and program compliance and will include a brief justification. The recommendation will not be based on the type of crimes involved. The Medical Reprieve form will then be forwarded to the OHS Medical Reprieve Coordinator at the Office of Health Services.
9. Upon receipt of the Medical Reprieve request, the OHS Medical Reprieve Coordinator will review the request for accuracy, completeness, and other eligibility.
10. The request will be forwarded to the GDC Statewide Medical Director, who will approve or disapprove the Medical Reprieve request purely on medical grounds and based upon the supplied health information.
11. The medically approved requests will then be returned to the OHS Medical Reprieve Coordinator who will forward them to the Board of Pardons and Paroles for final disposition.

**C. Notification of decision regarding Medical Reprieve Request:**

1. The OHS Medical Reprieve Coordinator will notify the Warden/Superintendent, the GDC Statewide (Deputy) Medical Director, and the contract vendor designee of the decision by Pardons and Paroles regarding approval/disapproval of the Medical Reprieve.
2. The Warden/Superintendent or designee will notify the offender of the decision.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



**Standard Operating Procedures**

**Policy Name:** Medical Reprieves

**Policy Number:** 507.04.66

**Effective Date:** 5/31/2023

**Page Number:** 4 of 4

**Authority:**  
Commissioner

**Originating Division:**  
Health Services Division  
(Physical Health)

**Access Listing:**  
Level I: All Access

V. **Attachments:** None.

VI. **Record Retention of Forms Relevant to this Policy:** None.