

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Brandon S. Wood



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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MEMORANDUM

To: All Sheriffs and Jail Administrators
From: Brandon Wood, Executive Director
Date: December 20, 2017
Reference: SB 1849 – Electronic Monitoring of Cells

Reference correspondence from our office dated November 10, 2017, regarding Electronic Monitoring devices within county jails. All facilities under the Commission's purview were requested to provide a floor plan of their facility, or facilities if operating more than one building, by December 15, 2017. If you have yet to submit the requested documentation please do so by January 5, 2017.

In order to assist you in determining whether your facility meets the requirements of SB 1849, we request that each county provide us floor plans of their facility. If your facility operates more than one building, please provide floor plans of each one. When submitting these floor plans, the holding cells, detoxification cells, separation cells, single cells, and violent cells need to be clearly identified. If electronic sensors or cameras are already provided near these cells, denoted their locations on the floor plans. Ensure you indicate cameras on the exterior of any "at-risk" cells that can be used to verify cell checks conducted by staff.

Counties operating a jail with a capacity of 96 beds or less are eligible to apply for funding to meet the requirements of SB 1849. A separate letter was provided to facilities meeting criteria for the grant. Both letters can be found on our website under Technical Assistance Bulletins.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this message, do not hesitate to contact our office. For specific questions relating to the Prisoner Safety Fund grant or the requested floor plans, please contact Planner Jason Ross, jason.ross@tcjs.state.tx.us, to request additional information.

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"The Commission on Jail Standards welcomes all suggestions and will promptly respond to all complaints directed against the agency or any facilities under its purview".

To empower local government to provide safe, secure and suitable local jail facilities through proper rules and procedures while promoting innovative programs and ideas