

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MEMORANDUM

TO: All Sheriffs and Jail Administrators
FROM: Brandon Wood, Executive Director
REGARDING: Counting Pregnant Inmates
DATE: November 8, 2018

In 2009, the Texas Legislature mandated that county jails count the number of pregnant inmates in their facility and report that number each month to the Texas Commission on Jail Standards. Upon receipt of those initial reports, it was evident that there was confusion as to how this number would be reported. After discussions with the bill's author, it was determined that the best way to fulfill this responsibility was to count the number of pregnant inmates at booking.

Since that time, it has been brought to our attention that there may still be pregnant inmates who are uncounted. This most likely occurs when jails determine after the booking process that a female is pregnant.

To address this, the Commission is updating its policy. Jails will not only be required to count pregnant inmates at booking, but also those determined to be pregnant after booking. Jails will then submit to the Commission that month's pregnant inmate total along with their population reports. If after submitting that month's population report the jail learns that an inmate is pregnant, notify the Commission in writing and the Commission will amend the jail's report.

This counting method will improve the accuracy of the monthly count of pregnant inmates and ensure jails are in compliance with this law.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact Will Turner at (512) 463-2690 or will.turner@tcjs.state.tx.us.

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