

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MEMORANDUM

TO: All Sheriffs and Jail Administrators
FROM: Brandon Wood, Executive Director
REGARDING: Use of Restraints/Documented Observation
DATE: October 27, 2020

Please review your operational plans, local policies and procedures along with your observation logs associated with the use of restraints to ensure they comply with **§273.6 Restraints**. Recent inspections have determined that in some cases the required 15-minute documented observation is not being performed or is occurring late. In one case, the jail had created a new form and inadvertently changed the 15-minute check requirement to a 30-minute check.

Since June 25, 2000, jails have been required to conduct and document their observation every 15 minutes of inmates who have been restrained. This is not a new requirement or change to the existing rule. Amendments to the rule were adopted in 2012 and 2019 regarding the use of restrains on pregnant inmates, but neither amendment modified the required 15-minute documented observation.

After conducting your self-audit, if you identify violations, please notify your inspector. They will provide guidance on what corrective action is necessary in order to prevent this issue from becoming a notice of non-compliance. If the issue is not identified and corrected prior to your next inspection, and it is determined that the required 15-minute check is not being performed and properly documented, a notice of non-compliance will be issued.

If you have any questions, please contact your inspector.