

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MEMORANDUM #22-02

TO: All Sheriffs and Jail Administrators
FROM: Brandon Wood, Executive Director
REGARDING: Inspection Process
DATE: February 15, 2022

As most of you know, the Texas Commission on Jail Standards went through the Sunset Review process during the last legislative session. This will result in many changes that impact not only internal agency operations and processes but also how we conduct our on-site operations to include the inspection process. These changes are currently underway and being developed, including replacing the agency's existing risk assessment tool with an expanded and validated version that will be used to determine when and how a county is inspected. This will be further explained as the process is developed and refined in the workshops that will be held to discuss the changes to standards also required.

One area that the Sunset Review is requiring the agency to change is how re-inspections are conducted. Previously, if a jail had failed their inspection, they would submit a corrective plan of action and then request reinspection. A majority of these reinspections were administrative and accomplished through a review of records and documentation jails were required to submit while a smaller percentage were conducted on-site to ensure the areas of non-compliance had been addressed and corrected.

We are now required to conduct a full inspection on a randomly selected percentage of jails that have requested reinspection. In order to test this approach, we have set that percentage at 25%, so one out of every four reinspections will be a full inspection and not just a review of the areas of non-compliance. The randomness is incorporated by utilizing the order in which the request for reinspection is received, something the Commission does not have control of. This is still in the testing stage and will most likely be adjusted after a large enough sample size is created for review.

As additional changes are made to the reinspection process and inspection process as a whole, we will keep you updated.

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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