

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

File

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Brandon S. Wood



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Cass

September 19, 2022

The Honorable Travis Ransom
Cass County Judge
P. O. Box 825
Linden, TX 75563-0825

and


Sheriff Larry Rowe
Cass County Sheriff
P. O. Box 180
Linden, TX 75563-0180

Dear Judge Wilbanks and Sheriff Rowe,

Pursuant to the provisions of V.T.C.A. Government Code, Section 511.011 and Title 37, Texas Administrative Code (Chapter 297, Section 5, Texas Minimum Jail Standards), you are hereby notified that the jail in your county fails to comply with minimum standards established under V.T.C.A. Local Government Code, Chapter 351, and the rules of this Commission, and that appropriate corrective measures must be initiated. A reasonable completion date for corrective measures should be set. Failure to initiate appropriate corrective action may cause a remedial order to be issued and enforced, or other appropriate action taken. **In accordance with Chapter 297, Section 6, Texas Minimum Jail Standards, please notify this agency in writing within thirty (30) days of receipt of this notice as to actions initiated.**

The attached page(s) indicate minimum standards violated, corrective measures required, and date by which corrective measures must be initiated. Please reference the Special Inspection Requirements Review and Jail Special Inspection Report issued on September 19, 2022, detailing the specific issues that resulted in the issuance of this notice of non-compliance.

Issued this 19th day of September 2022
Texas Commission on Jail Standards

By 
Brandon S. Wood, Executive Director

BW/cw

Judge Bill Stoudt, Longview, Chair
Dr. Esmaeil Porsa, M.D., Parker, Vice-Chair
Ross Reyes, Melissa

Sheriff Kelly Rowe, Lubbock
Sheriff Raul "Pinky" Gonzales, Refugio
Patricia M. Anthony, Garland

Commissioner Ben Perry, Waco
Duane Lock, Southlake
Monica McBride, Alpine

"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

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS - INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS REVIEW

Wendy

Wendy Wisneski, TCJS Inspector

Facility Name: Cass County Jail

Date: September 19, 2022

Chapter	Title	Comments
259	New Construction	<u>Deficiency noted. Technical Assistance provided</u> - After reviewing video documentation from the August 29, 2022 escape, it was determined that a vestibule door was left unsecured. When the jailer opened the cellblock door, the inmate assaulted the jailer and exited the vestibule, securing the door behind him. The inmate ran down the hallway in the housing area, and was able to gain access to the booking area through an unsecured door. Once in the booking area, the inmate was able to gain access to Control/Dispatch through an unsecured door. The inmate had a manufactured weapon ('shank') which he used to threaten three (3) other jail personnel into opening the door in booking leading to the sallyport. Once the inmate exited the jail into the sallyport, the inmate was able to escape the facility through the sallyport gate which was also unsecured. <u>Follow up action required</u> -Jail administration will provide a corrective plan of action which shall include training of all jail personnel regarding security of doors in the facility as well as sallyport roll up doors.
261	Existing Construction	Not applicable.
263	Life Safety	Not applicable.
265	Admission	Not applicable.
267	Release	Not applicable.
269	Records/Procedures	Not applicable.
271	Classification	Not applicable.
273	Health Services	Not applicable.
275	Supervision	Not applicable.
277	Personal Hygiene	Not applicable.
279	Sanitation	Not applicable.
281	Food Service	Not applicable.
283.1	Discipline	Not applicable.
283.3	Grievance	Not applicable.
285	Exercise	Not applicable.
287	Education/Library	Not applicable.
289	Work Assignments	Not applicable.
291.1	Telephone	Not applicable.
291.2	Correspondence	Not applicable.
291.3	Commissary	Not applicable.
291.4	Visitation	Not applicable.
291.5	Religious Practices	Not applicable.
xxx	Variances	Not applicable.
xxx	Remedial Orders	Not applicable.
xxx	Complaints	Not applicable.
xxx	CCQ	Not applicable.

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SEP 19 2022

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NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANCE CASS COUNTY JAIL

September 19, 2022

Please reference the Inspection Requirements Review and Jail Inspection Report issued on September 6, 2022, detailing the specific issues that resulted in the issuance of this notice of non-compliance.

Minimum Standards Violated:	Corrective Measure Required	Date Corrective Action Must Be Completed
259.102	Facility security shall be planned to protect inmates from one another, protect staff and visitors from inmates, and deter or prevent escapes. Video documentation reviewed from the August 29, 2022, escape revealed that facility security was breached when three (3) interior doors were left unsecured. Once able to gain access to a door leading to the sally port, the inmate was able to escape the facility as the sally port gate was also unsecured.	Upon receipt of this notice.