

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MEMORANDUM

#23-04

To: All Sheriffs and Jail Administrators
From: Brandon Wood, Executive Director
Date: February 24, 2023



RE: 297 inspection Process

The recent Sunset Review and HB 1545 required TCJS to move from the annual inspection process to a risk-based program. In order to comply with these changes, TCJS repealed and replaced Chapter 297 Inspection and Enforcement. These changes were discussed and reviewed in several workshops and proposed to our board, which voted to publish them in the Texas Register for comment. After publication, the rules were adopted, and TCJS began using the risk-based model, which includes Limited Compliance Reviews and Comprehensive Inspections. It should be noted that in addition to the risk-based model, Sunset required that we adopt an escalated enforcement section. This section is intended to reduce the amount of time jails are allowed to remain in non-compliance before they are required to appear before our Commission to provide an update. This section was modeled upon the approach that had been utilized and now formalizes it.

Staff continues to review and modify the effectiveness of this approach and will continue to review and modify internal procedures to ensure you receive a quality inspection. The new Chapter 297 is attached for your reference. This new inspection process, along with how the Inspection Priority Assessment works will be presented at the annual Texas Jail Association Conference as well as the Sheriff's Association of Texas conference this summer. We look forward to working with you as we implement this new approach. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Judge Bill Stoudt, Longview, Chair
Dr. Esmail Porsa, M.D., Houston, 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