

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

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NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANCE NEWTON COUNTY JAIL

December 4, 2023

Please reference the Inspection Requirements Review and Jail Inspection Report issued on November 29, 2023, 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
259.138 (a)	One or more holding cells shall be provided to hold inmates pending intake, processing, release, or other reasons for temporary holding. Inmates shall not be held for more than 48 hours, and the cell shall include the following features. During the inspection, 6 inmates were found to be housed in holding cells from 4 days up to 20 days.	Upon receipt of this notice.
275.1	Every facility shall have the appropriate number of jailers at the facility 24 hours each day. Facilities shall have an established procedure for documented face-to-face observation of all inmates by jailers no less than once every 60 minutes. Observation shall be performed at least every 30 minutes in areas where inmates known to be assaultive, potentially suicidal, mentally ill, or who have demonstrated bizarre behavior are confined. There shall be a two-way voice communication capability between inmates and jailers, licensed peace officers, bailiffs, and designated staff at all times. Closed circuit television may be used, but not in lieu of the required personal observation. Electronic sensors or cameras capable of recording the required personal observations of inmates in high-risk cells or groups of cells shall be installed no later than August 31, 2020. Due to the current intercom system not working properly, two-way voice communication cannot be achieved.	

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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