

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

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## NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANCE LIBERTY COUNTY JAIL

January 31, 2025

Please reference the Inspection Requirements Review and Jail Inspection Report issued on January 27, 2025, 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
259.134 259.135	<p>134. Multiple occupancy cells shall contain two to eight bunks and not less than 40 square feet of clear floor space for the first bunk plus 18 square feet of clear floor space for each additional bunk. Each multiple occupancy cell shall have one toilet and lavatory. Multiple occupancy cells should not be provided in direct supervision facilities. 135. Dormitories shall contain 9 to 48 bunks. Dormitories operated as direct supervision may accommodate more than 48 inmates but shall not exceed more than 72 inmates. Dormitories shall contain not less than 40 square feet of clear floor space for the first bunk plus 18 square feet of clear floor space for each additional bunk. Each dormitory shall have adequate toilets, lavatories, and may include showers. Dormitories with contiguous day rooms in direct supervision facilities may exceed 40% of the facility capacity</p> <p><b>At the time of the inspection, Liberty County had exceeded the maximum capacity in some of the housing units.</b></p>	<p><b>Upon receipt of this notice.</b></p>
259.157	<p>Doors to single cells, multiple occupancy cells, dormitories, and day rooms shall be capable of being locked and unlocked individually by control means located remote from the cell area. Single cells with contiguous day room and separation cells which open directly on an exiting corridor are exempt from this requirement. All remote door controls shall be secure.</p>	<p><b>Upon receipt of this notice.</b></p>

Judge Bill Stoudt, Longview, Chair  
Dr. Esmail 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

**At the time of the inspection Liberty County could only open doors on the west end of the jail using remote control.**

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| 259.154  | <p>Keys and locks for detention doors shall be manufactured especially for detention use and keys shall be mogul or paracentric type. An additional set of keys shall be maintained by the operator.</p> <p><b>Detention doors to single and multiple occupancy cells were observed to have nonworking and missing locks.</b></p>   | <p><b>Upon receipt of this notice</b></p>  |
| 263.55   | <p>All life safety equipment shall be inspected, maintained, and tested by persons qualified to do so (whether under vendor contract, by state or private agency or otherwise) in order that such equipment shall be safe, secure, and fully operative at all times.</p> <p><b>The kitchen Ansul hood was 60 days past due on the 6 month inspection requirement.</b></p>   | <p><b>Upon receipt of this notice.</b></p> |
| 263.42   | <p>Each facility, after consultation with the local fire department or Texas Commission on Fire Protection, shall have and implement a written plan, approved by the Commission on Jail Standards, for fire prevention and a fire hazard inspection checklist which shall be evaluated no less than each calendar quarter. The facility shall be inspected annually by a local fire official who is certified by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection or who meets the alternative criteria provided in Government Code 419.909 and shall pass the inspection.</p> <p><b>The current inspection performed by the local Fire Marshal listed deficiencies and was listed as a failed inspection.</b></p> | <p><b>Upon receipt of this notice.</b></p> |
| 263.55   | <p>All life safety equipment shall be inspected, maintained, and tested by persons qualified to do so (whether under vendor contract, by state or private agency or otherwise) in order that such equipment shall be safe, secure, and fully operative at all times.</p> <p><b>The fire panel had 158 trouble codes listed at the time of the inspection.</b></p>   | <p><b>Upon receipt of this notice.</b></p> |
| 273.5(5) | <p>(a) Each sheriff/operator shall develop and implement a mental disabilities/suicide prevention plan, in coordination with available medical and mental health officials, approved by the Commission by March 31, 1997. The plan shall address the following principles and procedures:</p>   | <p><b>Upon receipt of this notice.</b></p> |

**It was discovered that Liberty County was not performing documented observations of those on suicide watch.**

273.5(2)

Identification. Procedures for intake screening to identify inmates who are known to be or observed to be mentally disabled and/or potentially suicidal and procedures for compliance with Code of Criminal Procedure Article 16.22 and referrals to available mental health officials;

**Liberty County was not processing the results of the suicide screening forms as required of CCP 16.22**

**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.

**Two-way voice communication could not be achieved through the intercom system.**

**Upon receipt of this notice.**

275.4

Inmates shall be supervised by an adequate number of jailers to comply with state law and this chapter. One jailer shall be provided on each floor of the facility where 10 or more inmates are housed, with no less than 1 jailer per 48 inmates or increment thereof on each floor for direct inmate supervision. This jailer shall provide documented visual inmate supervision not less than once every 60 minutes. Sufficient staff to include supervisors, jailers and other essential personnel as accepted by the Commission shall be provided to perform required functions. A plan concurred in by both commissioners' court and sheriff's office, which provides for adequate and reasonable staffing of a facility, may be submitted to the Commission for approval. This rule shall not preclude the Texas

**Upon receipt of this notice.**

Commission on Jail Standards from requiring staffing in excess of minimum requirements when deemed necessary to provide a safe, suitable, and sanitary facility nor preclude submission of variance requests as provided by statute or Chapter 299 of this title.

**A review of staffing rosters indicated that Liberty County was not meeting the 1-48 ratio.**

279.3

Preventive maintenance, to include necessary repairs, shall be conducted to ensure a safe, secure, and sanitary facility. **The inspector found several sinks, toilets, showers and light fixtures that were damaged or inoperable.**

**Upon receipt of this notice.**

279.1(1)

Each facility shall have and implement a written plan, reviewed and approved by the commission, for the maintenance of an acceptable level of cleanliness and sanitation throughout the facility. Such plan shall provide for:

(1) a regular daily schedule for the work and inspections necessary to keep the facility clean; which schedule shall be assigned and supervised by jailers who have the responsibility for keeping the facility clean and making regular sanitation inspections;

**Housing units were observed with excessive amounts of trash and clutter.**

**Upon receipt of this notice.**

279.1(2)

Each facility shall have and implement a written plan, reviewed and approved by the commission, for the maintenance of an acceptable level of cleanliness and sanitation throughout the facility. Such plan shall provide for:(2) water and sewage systems not part of a public system and food preparation areas shall be inspected at least annually by health authorities and record kept for each inspection;

**At the time of the inspection the annual health inspection of the kitchen was past due by 20 days and one has not been scheduled.**

**Upon receipt of this notice.**