

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Ricky Armstrong



P.O. Box 12985
Austin, Texas 78711
Voice: (512) 463-5505
Fax: (512) 463-3185
<http://www.tcjs.state.tx.us>
info@tcjs.state.tx.us

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MEMORANDUM

#26-03

To: All Sheriffs and Jail Administrators
From: Ricky Armstrong, Deputy Director
Date: February 3, 2026
RE: Offensive Severity Scale

Updated Offensive Severity Scale for use with Objective Jail Classification

With the assistance of the Correctional Management Institute of Texas at Sam Houston State University, the Texas Commission on Jail Standards has revised the offense severity scale. This will ensure that counties have the most appropriate instrument to classify inmates and house them in the least restrictive housing available without jeopardizing staff, inmates, or the public.

This updated instrument will be placed on the website in the resources tab under online forms and resources (Offense Severity Scale). Please replace your current copy of this form and use the updated form dated 02/3/2026.

Online Forms and Resources - Texas Commission on Jail Standards (state.tx.us)

Sheriff Kelly Rowe, Chair
Dr. Esmail Porsa, M.D., Vice-Chair
Judge Joseph "Joe" Fauth, III, Plantersville

Sheriff Richard Kirkpatrick, Kingsville
Ross Reyes, Melissa
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