

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Ricky Armstrong



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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MEMORANDUM

#26-08

To: All Sheriffs and Jail Administrators
From: Ricky Armstrong, Executive Director
Date: August 19, 2026
RE: Changes to Minimum Jail Standards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "RA", is written over the "From:" line of the memorandum.

The Texas Commission on Jail Standards has adopted the following rules, most of which are regarding inmates who are wards with a guardian. These rules have been evaluated by the TCJS Administrative Rules Advisory Committee and subject-matter-experts. The final rule in this list is related to new construction.

The following rules have been amended or, in the case of 273.9 Guardianship, added to minimum jail standards. The full text of each rule can be found on our website at <https://www.tcjs.state.tx.us/jail-standards/> under "Adopted Rules", in the next issue of the Texas Register, or at this [link](#).

- 251.6 Complaints
- 253.1 Definitions
- 265.4 Inmate Files
- 265.5 Health Tags
- 265.7 Telephone Use
- 273.2 Health Services Plan
- 273.9 Guardianship (new rule)
- 259.132 Exercise Areas

Please determine the best procedure for your facility to comply with these rules. These rules will go into effect on September 3, 2026. Please contact Richard Morgan at Richard.morgan@tcjs.state.tx.us for any questions or additional information.

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

Sheriff Richard Kirkpatrick, Kingsville
Ross Reyes, Melissa
Patricia N. 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