

File

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Brandon S. Wood



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Tyler

July 19, 2022

The Honorable Jacques L. Blanchette  
Tyler County Judge  
100 W. Bluff  
Woodville, TX 75979

and

Sheriff Bryan Weatherford  
Tyler County Sheriff  
702 N. Magnolia  
Woodville, TX 75979-4515

Dear Judge Blanchette and Sheriff Weatherford,

Pursuant to the provisions of V.T.C.A. Government Code, Section 511.011 and Title 37, Texas Administrative Code (Chapter 297, Section 5, Texas Minimum Jail Standards), you are hereby notified that the jail in your county fails to comply with minimum standards established under V.T.C.A. Local Government Code, Chapter 351, and the rules of this Commission, and that appropriate corrective measures must be initiated. A reasonable completion date for corrective measures should be set. Failure to initiate appropriate corrective action may cause a remedial order to be issued and enforced, or other appropriate action taken. **In accordance with Chapter 297, Section 6, Texas Minimum Jail Standards, please notify this agency in writing within thirty (30) days of receipt of this notice as to actions initiated.**

The attached page(s) indicate minimum standards violated, corrective measures required, and date by which corrective measures must be initiated. Please reference the Inspection Requirements Review and Jail Inspection Report issued on July 13, 2022, detailing the specific issues that resulted in the issuance of this notice of non-compliance.

Issued this 19th day of July 2022  
Texas Commission on Jail Standards

By  \_\_\_\_\_  
Brandon S. Wood, Executive Director

BW/cw

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

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS - INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS REVIEW

  
 Byron Shelton, TCJS Inspector

Facility Name: Tyler County Jail

Date:

July 13, 2022

Chapter	Title	Comments
259	New Construction	Conducted a walk through of the facility.
261	Existing Construction	Not applicable.
263	Life Safety	Inspected life safety equipment and conducted and observed emergency drill. Reviewed documentation. Conducted staff interviews.
265	Admission	Reviewed a random sample of 6 inmate files. Interviewed staff. Reviewed policy.
267	Release	Reviewed a random sample of 2 inmate files. Interviewed staff.
269	Records/Procedures	Reviewed policy and documentation. Interviewed staff and reviewed ADA compliance evaluation.
271	Classification	Reviewed a random selection of 6 files. Reviewed training records.
273	Health Services	Reviewed a random selection of 6 files. Interviewed staff and inmates. Reviewed training records. Reviewed policy.
275	Supervision	Reviewed a random selection of 12 jailer TCOLE certification records. Reviewed jailer documentation. Interviewed staff. <b>Deficiency Noted See Report. Technical assistance provided-</b> After reviewing an escape incident from the Tyler County Jail this inspector learned that jail staff on duty at the time of the escape failed to perform observation checks for several hours. The staff members failure to perform the observation checks not only allowed the escape to occur but additionally remain out of custody for prolonged period of time. While reviewing the Tyler County Jail's observation checks this inspector also observed that staff members were performing their checks routinely on the half hour and hour exactly demonstrating a pattern. Follow-up required-The Tyler County Jail Administration will submit an action plan to this inspector within the next 14 days on how they will be addressing this deficiency going forward. This plan shall include training all jail staff on how to properly conduct observation checks and a training roster documenting this training shall be sent to this inspector. Additionally, the Tyler County Jail shall send this inspector random observation checks along with video for review on a weekly basis until further notice.
277	Personal Hygiene	Conducted a facility walk through. Reviewed facility schedule.
279	Sanitation	Conducted a facility walk through. Interviewed staff and inmates. Reviewed policy. <b>Technical assistance provided-</b> Conducted a facility walk through. Interviewed staff and inmates. Reviewed policy. <b>Technical assistance provided-</b> While conducting my walkthrough of the Tyler County Jail this inspector learned of multiple plumbing issues with sinks and toilets. A plumber was secured and immediately came to the jail and began repair work while this inspector was onsite. Follow-up required- The Tyler County Jail will submit a plan of action to this inspector within the next 14 days on how they will be identifying maintenance repairs in the cells on a more routine and efficient basis as several of the complaints about maintenance that this inspector received while conducting the walkthrough were issues that were anywhere from a couple of days to a couple weeks old in nature. Additionally, until further notice on a weekly basis the Tyler County Jail Administration will submit copies of the identified maintenance repairs to this inspector along with the status of the repair.
281	Food Service	Conducted walk through inspection in kitchen area. Interviewed staff. Reviewed documentation.
283.1	Discipline	Reviewed 10 disciplinary hearing records. Interviewed staff and inmates. Reviewed policy. Reviewed inmate rules.
283.3	Grievance	Reviewed 20 inmate grievance/complaints. Reviewed policy. Interviewed staff and inmates.
285	Exercise	Walk through of exercise area conducted. Reviewed documentation. Interviewed staff and inmates. Deficiency noted. <b>***Inspector's Note***- The Tyler County Jail staff does an excellent job with recreation; they regularly allow the inmate population extended periods of recreation of up to 2-3 hours.</b>
287	Education/Library	Reviewed policy and schedule. Interviewed staff and inmates.
289	Work Assignments	Reviewed policy and schedule. Interviewed staff and inmates.
291.1	Telephone	Reviewed policy and schedule. Interviewed staff and inmates.

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 JUL 13 2022

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS - INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS REVIEW

291.3	Commissary	Reviewed policy and schedule. Interviewed staff and inmates.
291.4	Visitation	Reviewed policy and schedule. Interviewed staff and inmates.
291.5	Religious Practices	Reviewed policy and schedule. Interviewed staff and inmates.
xxx	Variances	Not applicable.
xxx	Remedial Orders	Not applicable.
xxx	Complaints	Not applicable.
xxx	CCQ	CCQ inquiries are being submitted through TLETS as required.

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ON JAIL STANDARDS

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## NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANCE TYLER COUNTY JAIL

July 19, 2022

Please reference the Inspection Requirements Review and Jail Inspection Report issued on July 13, 2022 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
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.	Upon receipt of this notice.

**During a review of an escape from the Tyler County Jail it was discovered jail staff failed to perform observation checks for several hours.**

Judge Bill Stoudt, Longview, Chair  
Dr. Esmaeil Porsa, M.D., Parker, Vice-Chair  
Ross Reyes, Melissa

Sheriff Kelly Rowe, Lubbock  
Sheriff Raul "Pinky" Gonzales, Refugio  
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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*