

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Brandon S. Wood



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

December 10, 2025

The Honorable Lina Hidalgo
Harris County Judge
1001 Preston, Ste. 911
Houston, TX 77002

and

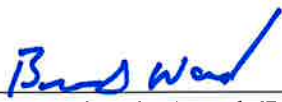
Sheriff Ed Gonzalez
Harris County Sheriff
1200 Baker Street
Houston, TX 77002

Dear Judge Hidalgo and Sheriff Gonzalez,

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 December 4, 2025, detailing the specific issues that resulted in the issuance of this notice of non-compliance.

Issued this 9th day of December 2025
Texas Commission on Jail Standards

By 
Brandon S. Wood, Executive Director

BW/gw

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



Texas Commission on Jail Standards

Harris

December 2-4-2025

Houston

Date(s) of Inspection

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Inspection Report

State Law requires periodic inspections of county jail facilities (VTCA, Local Government Code, Chapter 351, VTCA, Government Code, Chapter 511; Chapter 297.8, Texas Commission on Jail Standards).

- ☐ The facility was inspected on the date(s) indicated above, and it was determined that deficiencies exist. You are urged: (1) to give these areas of noncompliance your serious and immediate consideration; and (2) to promptly initiate and complete appropriate corrective measures. The Commission is available to discuss or assist you with the appropriate corrective measures required.

Failure to initiate and complete corrective measures following receipt of the Notice of Noncompliance may result in the issuance of a Remedial Order (Chapter 297.8, et seq.).

- ☐ This facility was inspected on the date(s) indicated above. There were no deficiencies noted and upon review of this report by the Executive Director of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards, a certificate of Compliance may be issued per the requirements of VTCA, Chapter 511 and Texas Minimum Jail Standards.

Authenticated:

Inter-Office Use Only

Michael Garrett, TCJS Inspector

Jason Jouett, TCJS Inspector

Ricky Armstrong, Asst. Director

Michael Gravitt, TCJS Inspector

Todd A. Allen, TCJS Inspector

Marty Arnold, TCJS Inspector

	12/9/2025
Received by:	Date
	12/8/2025
Reviewed by:	Date

cc: Judge
Sheriff

Individuals and/or entities regulated by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards shall direct all complaints regarding the commission procedures and functions to the Executive Director at: P.O. Box 12985 Austin, Texas 78711 (512) 463-5505 Fax (512) 463-3185 or at our agency website at www.tcjs.state.tx.us.

RECEIVED
By Gary Wigal at 8:47 am, Dec 09, 2025

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

County:	<u>Harris</u>		
Sheriff	<u>Ed Gonzales</u>	Judge:	<u>Lina Hidalgo</u>
email	<u>ed.gonzales@sheriff.hctx.net</u>	email	<u>lina.hidalgo@cjo.hctx.net</u>
Jail Administrator:	<u>Phillip Bosquez</u>	Inspector:	<u>Michael Garrett, TCJS Inspector</u>
email	<u>phillip.bosquez@sheriff.hctx.net</u>		<u>michael.garrett@tcjs.state.tx.us</u>

Last Inspection June 23,27-2025 Compliant No Inspection Date(s) December 1,5-2025
 Remedial Order Yes Effect: N/A

Reportable Incidents (Previous 12 month History)	Fires <u>32</u>	Escapes <u>0</u>	AT	Contract Inmates Housed
	Deaths <u>8</u>	Walkaway <u>0</u>	AT	LaSalle <u>649</u>
	Suicides <u>0</u>	Secured <u>0</u>	AT	Jefferson <u>187</u>
			AT	Natchitoches <u>361</u>
			AT	

Date Plans Approved August 1, 2023

1. Facility Name <u>Harris County Jail</u> Address <u>1200 baker St</u> Zip Code <u>77002</u> City <u>Houston</u> State <u>Tx</u> Phone # <u>(1713) 755-8411</u> Fax # <u>(1713) 755-7541</u> Built <u>2002</u> Renovated <u>N/A</u> Addition <u>N/A</u> Type <u>Max</u> Number of Variances <u>1</u>	Drill Time <u>1min43sec</u> Facility Capacity <u>4563</u> Average Daily Population <u>3600.92</u> Housing Total this Date <u>3522</u> Holding Total this Date <u>217</u>
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2. Facility Name <u>Harris County Jail</u> Address <u>701 N. SanJacinto</u> Zip Code <u>77002</u> City <u>Houston</u> State <u>Tx</u> Phone # <u>(1713) 755-6067</u> Fax # <u>(1713) 755-7541</u> Built <u>1991</u> Renovated <u>N/A</u> Addition <u>N/A</u> Type <u>Max</u> Number of Variances <u>1</u>	Drill Time <u>1min46sec</u> Facility Capacity <u>4235</u> Average Daily Population <u>2791.83</u> Housing Total this Date <u>2828</u> Holding Total this Date <u>0</u>
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3. Facility Name <u>Harris County Jail</u> Address <u>1307 Baker St</u> Zip Code <u>77002</u> City <u>Houston</u> State <u>Tx</u> Phone # <u>(1713) 755-2400</u> Fax # <u>(1713) 755-2298</u> Built <u>1998</u> Renovated <u>N/A</u> Addition <u>2001</u> Type <u>Max</u> Number of Variances <u>1</u>	Drill Time <u>1min8sec</u> Facility Capacity <u>528</u> Average Daily Population <u>157.58</u> Housing Total this Date <u>121</u> Holding Total this Date <u>0</u>
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Housing Capacity <u>10022</u> <table style="width:100%;"> <tr> <th>Cells</th> <th>Capacity</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Sep Cells <u>134</u></td> <td><u>134</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Single Cells <u>950</u></td> <td><u>950</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>M.O. Cells <u>52</u></td> <td><u>2440</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dorms <u>230</u></td> <td><u>6498</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neg Press Cells <u>27</u></td> <td><u>27</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Medical Cells <u>8</u></td> <td><u>113</u></td> </tr> </table> Notes: Negative Pressure Cells and Medical Cells are in the above count.	Cells	Capacity	Sep Cells <u>134</u>	<u>134</u>	Single Cells <u>950</u>	<u>950</u>	M.O. Cells <u>52</u>	<u>2440</u>	Dorms <u>230</u>	<u>6498</u>	Neg Press Cells <u>27</u>	<u>27</u>	Medical Cells <u>8</u>	<u>113</u>	Holding Capacity <u>1288</u> <table style="width:100%;"> <tr> <th>Cells</th> <th>Capacity</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Holding Cells <u>314</u></td> <td><u>1278</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Detoxification Cells <u>4</u></td> <td><u>4</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Violent Cells <u>6</u></td> <td><u>6</u></td> </tr> </table>	Cells	Capacity	Holding Cells <u>314</u>	<u>1278</u>	Detoxification Cells <u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	Violent Cells <u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	Females <u>987</u> (Female Population Today) # of Cells <u>36</u> # of Bunks <u>1074</u>
Cells	Capacity																							
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Violent Cells <u>6</u>	<u>6</u>																							
Construction Security Level Minimum Capacity <u>1216</u> Medium Capacity <u>0</u> Maximum Capacity <u>9350</u>		Contract Inmates 100 + Capacity (30% + Non - TX) ☐ Yes ☒ No																						

Population: Housing 6603 Hold/Detox/Violent 217 Total System Population 6820
(During Inspection)

Total Inspection Time 24 hours Total Average Daily Population 7195.42


 Sheriff


 Jail Administrator

Interview with Court Representative ☒ Yes ☐ No


 Commissioner's Court Representative

RECEIVED
 By Gary Wigal at 8:47 am, Dec 09, 2025

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS - INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS REVIEW



Michael Garrett, TCJS Inspector

Facility Name: Harris

Date: December 2-4-2025

Chapter	Title	Comments
259	New Construction	Conducted a walk through inspection of the facility. <u>Technical assistance provided</u> – During the review of staffing rosters, it was determined that the 711 Jail Facility staffing failed to meet the required 1-to-48 ratio because the facility was operated as an indirect supervision facility rather than a direct supervision facility. The facility design allows for up to 72 inmates to be housed in the two housing dormitories. Staffing rosters for November 24, 2025, to December 4, 2025, show that the facility was understaffed by 1 officer on 7 of 20 shifts during this period, when operated as an indirect supervision facility. Once the issue with the administration was addressed, immediate steps were taken to correct the staffing issue by operating the facility as a direct-supervision facility. <u>No follow-up required</u> , issue corrected on site.
261	Existing Construction	Conducted a walk through inspection of the facility.
263	Life Safety	Inspected life safety equipment and conducted and observed an emergency drill. Reviewed documentation. Conducted staff interviews. <u>Deficiency Noted, Technical Assistance Provided</u> - During the Walk-through portion of the Inspection, the fire panels at 1307 Baker and 1200 Baker were operating normally. The fire panels at 701 N. San Jacinto, the Joint Processing Center, the Inmate Processing Center, and the court holding cells were all in trouble. The Inspection team was advised that the panel at the Inmate Processing Center was not repairable and had to be replaced. Furthermore, the annunciator located on the 2nd floor, where inmates are occasionally held for court or transportation, does not alert staff if an alarm is activated. The only way to know whether the panel goes into alarm would require someone on the first floor to monitor the main Fire Control Panel. <u>This is a continuing deficiency. Follow-up Required-</u> Within 30 days, the Jail Administration will provide a Plan of Action to address repairs of the panels in a timely manner during non-business hours and holidays. Administration will keep this inspector advised of the date and timelines for the replacement of the Fire Control Panel at the Inmate Processing Center. Jail Administration will also provide a plan of action to ensure that, when occupied, staff on the 2nd floor of the Inmate Processing Center are notified when the system goes into alarm and the actual location. Staff will also complete a 15-minute
265	Admission	
267	Release	Reviewed a random sample of #5 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 #40 inmate files. Reviewed staff training records. Reviewed internal classification audits. Reviewed policy. Interviewed staff.
273	Health Services	Reviewed a random selection of #40 files. Interviewed staff and inmates. Reviewed training records. Reviewed policy.
275	Supervision	Reviewed all #250 officer TCOLE certification records. Reviewed officer documentation. Interviewed staff. <u>Deficiencies noted. Technical assistance provided.</u> 1.) During the inspection team's review of medical files, it was determined that, during the period from November 15, 2025, through November 28, 2025, on 10 occasions, inmates were either delayed or not transported to scheduled dental, optometry, or emergency room visits. The delays and missed transports were attributed to no security staff available at the time of the scheduled or emergency appointment. <u>Follow-up is required</u> - HCSO jail staff and the medical provider (Harris Health) shall coordinate to provide a plan of action to the lead inspector within 30 days to ensure sufficient staff will be available to escort inmates to all scheduled medical appointments and emergencies.
277	Personal Hygiene	Conducted a facility walk through. Reviewed facility schedule.
279	Sanitation	Conducted a facility walk through. Interviewed staff and inmates. Reviewed policy.

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS - INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS REVIEW

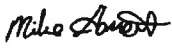
281	Food Service	Conducted walk through inspection in kitchen area. Interviewed staff. Reviewed documentation.
283.1	Discipline	Reviewed #50 disciplinary hearing records. Interviewed staff and inmates. Reviewed policy. Reviewed inmate rules.
283.3	Grievance	Reviewed #49 inmate grievance/complaints. Reviewed policy. Interviewed staff and inmates.
285	Exercise	Walk through of exercise area conducted. Reviewed documentation. Interviewed staff and inmates.
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.
291.2	Correspondence	Reviewed policy and schedule. Interviewed staff and inmates.
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	All facility variances were reviewed.
xxx	Remedial Orders	Not applicable.
xxx	Complaints	Not applicable.
xxx	CCQ	All required personnel are trained and certified with the CCQ system and inquiries are being performed on all inmates at intake.

RECEIVED*By Gary Wigal at 8:47 am, Dec 09, 2025*

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS
Technical Assistance

Facility Name: Harris

Date: December 2-4-2025


Michael Garrett, TCJS Inspector

Item	Section	Paragraph	Comments
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1	263.55		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.
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The inspection team found fire control panels in trouble mode.

2	259	.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.
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Building 711, the trusty dorm, was found to be operating as Indirect Supervision, but was originally designed for Direct Supervision.

3	275	.4	Staff - 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.
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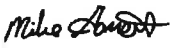
The Inspection team discovered that on occasion, inmates were not transported to scheduled doctor appointments or Emergency Room visits.

RECEIVED
By Gary Wigal at 8:47 am, Dec 09, 2025

**TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS
JAIL INSPECTION REPORT**

Facility Name: Harris

Date: December 2-4-2025


Michael Garrett, TCJS Inspector

Item	Section	Paragraph	Comments
1	263.55		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. The inspection team found fire control panels in trouble mode.
2	275	.4	Staff - 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. The Inspection team discovered that on occasion, inmates were not transported to scheduled doctor appointments or Emergency Room visits.

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NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANCE

HARRIS COUNTY JAIL

December 9, 2025

Please reference the Inspection Requirements Review and Jail Inspection Report issued on December 2-4, 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
263.55	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. The inspection team found fire control panels in trouble mode.	Upon receipt of this notice.
281.1	Staff - 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. The Inspection team discovered that on occasion, inmates were not transported to scheduled doctor appointments or Emergency Room visits.	Upon receipt of this notice.

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

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