

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Ricky Armstrong



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

February 25, 2026

Sheriff Michael Hopkins
Rains County Sheriff's Office
313 E. North St.
Emory, TX, 75440

Dear Sheriff Michael Hopkins,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Rains County was subject to enhanced enforcement under Texas Administrative Code Title 37 Part 9 Chapter 297 Rule §297.9.

It has been determined that Rains County has passed two comprehensive inspections within twelve months since you were placed in enhanced enforcement. Rains County will no longer be required to submit a monthly status report to the commission.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact me at (512) 653-4346 at your convenience.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ricky Armstrong".

Ricky Armstrong
Interim Executive Director

RA/gw

cc: Brent Hilliard, Rains County

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

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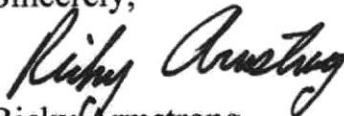
Dear Sheriff Hopkins,

The most recent inspection of the Rains County Jail on February 19, 2026, by Texas Commission on Jail Standards Inspector Michael Gravitt has demonstrated that your facility is in compliance with Texas Minimum Jail Standards.

Enclosed you will find the Certificate of Compliance for the Rains County Jail.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,


Ricky Armstrong
Interim Executive Director

RA/gw

cc: Judge Brent Hilliard, Rains County

****Note:** Please be advised that technical assistance was provided in some areas. The Requirements Review has been attached for your review to ensure that you are fully aware of the issues. Failure to address the technical assistance areas in a timely manner may result in the issuance of a notice of non-compliance.

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
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Texas Commission on Jail Standards

Rains County Jail

Emory, TX

February 19, 2026
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 Gravitt, TCJS Inspector

	2/24/2026
Received by:	Date
	2/24/2026
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 1:03 pm, Feb 24, 2026

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

County:	<u>Rains</u>	
Sheriff	<u>Michael Hopkins</u>	Judge: <u>Brent D. Hilliard</u>
email	<u>michael.hopkins@co.rains.tx.us</u>	email <u>brent.d.hilliard@co.rains.tx.us</u>
Jail Administrator:	<u>Jeremy Caviness</u>	Inspector: <u>Michael Gravitt, TCJS Inspector</u>
email	<u>jeremy.caviness@co.rains.tx.us</u>	

Last Inspection July 28, 2025 Compliant Yes Inspection Date(s) February 19, 2026
 Remedial Order N/A Effect: _____

Reportable Incidents (Previous 12 month History)

Fires	<u>0</u>	Escapes	<u>0</u>
Deaths	<u>0</u>	Walkaway	<u>0</u>
Suicides	<u>0</u>	Secured	<u>0</u>

Contract Inmates Housed

Date Plans Approved April 8, 2021

1. Facility Name Rains County Jail

Address P.O. Box 398 Zip Code 75440-0398

City Emory State TX

Phone # 903-473-3181 Fax # 903-473-3008

Built 1986 Renovated N/A Addition 2002

Type Max Number of Variances 0

Drill Time 32 sec

Facility Capacity 47

Average Daily Population 32.02

Housing Total this Date 24

Holding Total this Date 0

2. Facility Name _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

City _____ State _____

Phone # _____ Fax # _____

Built _____ Renovated _____ Addition _____

Type _____ Number of Variances _____

Drill Time _____

Facility Capacity _____

Average Daily Population _____

Housing Total this Date _____

Holding Total this Date _____

3. Facility Name _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

City _____ State _____

Phone # _____ Fax # _____

Built _____ Renovated _____ Addition _____

Type _____ Number of Variances _____

Drill Time _____

Facility Capacity _____

Average Daily Population _____

Housing Total this Date _____

Holding Total this Date _____

<p>Housing Capacity <u>47</u></p> <table style="width:100%;"> <tr> <th>Cells</th> <th>Capacity</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Sep Cells <u>7</u></td> <td><u>7</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Single Cells <u>0</u></td> <td><u>0</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>M.O. Cells <u>6</u></td> <td><u>40</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dorms <u>0</u></td> <td><u>0</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neg Press Cells <u>0</u></td> <td><u>0</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Medical Cells <u>0</u></td> <td><u>0</u></td> </tr> </table> <p><small>Notes: Negative Pressure Cells and Medical Cells are in the above count.</small></p>	Cells	Capacity	Sep Cells <u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	Single Cells <u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	M.O. Cells <u>6</u>	<u>40</u>	Dorms <u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Neg Press Cells <u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Medical Cells <u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<p>Holding Capacity <u>19</u></p> <table style="width:100%;"> <tr> <th>Cells</th> <th>Capacity</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Holding Cells <u>2</u></td> <td><u>8</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Detoxification Cells <u>1</u></td> <td><u>10</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Violent Cells <u>1</u></td> <td><u>1</u></td> </tr> </table> <p>Construction Security Level</p> <table style="width:100%;"> <tr> <td>Minimum Capacity</td> <td align="center"><u>0</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Medium Capacity</td> <td align="center"><u>0</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maximum Capacity</td> <td align="center"><u>47</u></td> </tr> </table>	Cells	Capacity	Holding Cells <u>2</u>	<u>8</u>	Detoxification Cells <u>1</u>	<u>10</u>	Violent Cells <u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Minimum Capacity	<u>0</u>	Medium Capacity	<u>0</u>	Maximum Capacity	<u>47</u>	<p>Females <u>6</u> <small>(Female Population Today)</small></p> <p># of Cells <u>2</u></p> <p># of Bunks <u>7</u></p> <p>Contract Inmates</p> <p>100 + Capacity (30% + Non - TX)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
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Population: **Housing** 24 **Hold/Detox/Violent** 0 **Total System Population** 24
(During Inspection)

Total Inspection Time 5 hours **Total Average Daily Population** 32.02

Inspector _____

Sheriff _____

Interview with Court Representative Yes No

Jail Administrator _____

Commissioners Court Representative _____

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By Gary Wigal at 1:03 pm, Feb 24, 2026

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS - INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS REVIEW



Michael Gravitt, TCJS Inspector

Facility Name: Rains County Jail

Date: February 19, 2026

Chapter	Title	Comments
259	New Construction	Conducted a walk through inspection of the facility.
261	Existing Construction	Conducted a walk through inspection of the facility.
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 5 inmate files. Interviewed staff. Reviewed policy. Technical assistance provided - During the review of VRSS records, it was learned that Rains County staff are conducting VRSS checks once a week on Mondays, and not during the intake process, prior to housing as required as of September 1, 2025. The issue was addressed with administration and the new requirements for VRSS checks were explained. Follow-up action required - Administration will develop a plan of action outlining steps that will be taken to ensure that a VRSS check is conducted for each inmate during intake, prior to housing. The plan action will be forwarded to this inspector for review within the next 30 days.
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 5 inmate files. Reviewed staff training records. Reviewed internal classification audits. Reviewed policy. Interviewed staff. Technical assistance provided - During the review of inmate classification files, one file was found where a classification reassessment was not completed immediately upon a change in legal status that would have changed the inmate's classification. Specifically, inmate Mickey Gray was booked in on January 6, 2026, and was initially classified as a 5 medium. Inmate Gray was subsequently convicted of his charges on January 15, 2026. The conviction would lower his classification to a 6 minimum, and the reassessment was not conducted until February 13, 2026. Administration advised that this was found during an audit of the inmate files and was actively providing more training to staff to prevent further occurrences of this type of situation. No follow-up required
273	Health Services	Reviewed a random selection of 4 files. Interviewed staff and inmates. Reviewed training records. Reviewed policy.
275	Supervision	Reviewed a random sample of 15 officer TCOLE certification records. Reviewed officer documentation. Interviewed staff.
277	Personal Hygiene	Conducted a facility walk through. Reviewed facility schedule.
279	Sanitation	Conducted a facility walk through. Interviewed staff and inmates. Reviewed policy.
281	Food Service	Conducted walk through inspection in kitchen area. Interviewed staff. Reviewed documentation.
283.1	Discipline	Reviewed 4 disciplinary hearing records. Interviewed staff and inmates. Reviewed policy. Reviewed inmate rules. ****There were no inmate disciplinary records on record for review.
283.3	Grievance	Reviewed 0 inmate grievance/complaints. Reviewed policy. Interviewed staff and inmates. ****There were no inmate grievances on record for review.
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.

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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.

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**TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS
Technical Assistance**

Facility Name: Rains County Jail

Date: February 19, 2026



Michael Gravitt, TCJS Inspector

Item	Section	Paragraph	Comments
1	265	.13(a)	<p>(a) Each sheriff/operator shall investigate and verify the veteran status of each prisoner by using data made available from the Veterans Reentry Search Service (VRSS) operated by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs or similar service during intake, prior to housing..</p> <p>During the review of VRSS records, it was learned that Rains County staff are conducting VRSS checks once a week on Mondays, and not during the intake process, prior to housing as required as of September 1, 2025.</p>
2	271	.1(b)(3)	<p>(3) Custody Reassessment/Review. A custody reassessment shall be conducted within 30 - 90 days of the initial Custody Assessment and immediately upon any disciplinary action and/or change in legal status which would affect classification. A documented classification review to determine the necessity for a complete reassessment shall be conducted every 30 - 90 days thereafter.</p> <p>During the review of inmate classification files, one file was found where a classification reassessment was not completed immediately upon a change in legal status that would have changed the inmate's classification.</p>

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CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE
This is to certify that the
RAINS COUNTY JAIL

Has been duly inspected on
February 19, 2026

and has been found that date to be in compliance with

Texas Minimum Jail Standards

Under Authority of Government Code,
Chapter 511, Texas Commission On Jail Standards



Ricky Armstrong
Interim Executive Director

