The jails in Texas are primarily county jails operated by the sheriff of each county under the rules and guidance of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS). It should be noted that some jails in Texas are operated through contracted vendors.

As a jailer, you are entering a challenging and demanding element of the criminal justice system. You will be interacting with persons who represent a wide variety of ethnic and social backgrounds. This interaction will require expertise and training to develop the skills necessary to obtain the additional information regarding the social characteristics of the jail population.

The population in the jail is taking on an ever-changing face. Couple this with the changing demographics of our society and the challenges for a jailer become more demanding. Individuals often have different values, standards of conduct, and religious practices that may be unfamiliar. It is the responsibility of the jailer to learn as much as possible about varying cultures, customs, and lifestyles in order to provide fair and humane treatment.

The Basic County Corrections Course (BCC) was developed with the following objectives in mind for you as a professional jailer:

* To feel secure in your job.
* To be able to respond in a professional manner to as many known situations as can reasonably be expected to occur.
* To prevent the escape of persons placed in your custody.
* To understand that the violation of any constitutional right of an inmate will have the highest potential for personnel or agency liability.
* To hold yourself in high esteem.
* To be acquainted with the diversity and cultural differences of individuals you will be interacting with in your custody.
* To always seek ethical practices and insist that all others conduct themselves in an ethical manner.
* To encourage the development of friendships outside the jail environment - those persons with high standards of conduct and common interest, with you and your family, will be the critical balance you need in your life to sustain you and your family.

You are to be commended for selecting this profession, as your skills, education, and training will be an invaluable asset to your county.

The instructors who facilitate this course will be mandated to conduct a minimum of 120 training hours. The objective is to prepare the student as a basic jailer with the information required to pass the state licensing exam. The individual may then enter the county jail facility with the basic skills and confidence to accomplish their assigned tasks in the most professional manner.

**Jailer’s Code of Ethics**

As a Jailer, my fundamental duty is to serve my community; to safeguard the lives and property within my jurisdiction; to protect against deception, oppression, or intimidation; to prevent violence or disorder; and to respect and preserve the constitutional rights of all.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my office. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I will never act officiously nor permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities, or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless dedication to duty, I will regulate those in my charge appropriately and with dignity, without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence, and never accepting a gratuity.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of my calling. I will constantly strive to achieve these ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession.

**Our Creed**

"Dignity, Honor, Personal Integrity,

and at all times fair dealings."

***Instructor Note:*** *This chapter has been designed to allow the instructor/academy staff a one hour block of time to specifically present a personalized course introduction and orientation to meet the needs of the various departments.*