



Oklahoma State Department of Health  
Creating a State of Health

September 14, 2016

HRDS Letter: JID2016-06

To: Sheriffs / Holding Facilities

**RE: Jail Standards Clarification and Updates on Holding Facilities**

The enclosed documentation is information as it relates to holding facilities. After receiving guidance from our Office of General Counsel, the State Department of Health's Jail Inspection Division will no longer inspect or provide training and testing to holding facility's and their staff. An examination of the statutory requirements determined that a facility that meets the definition of a holding facility is not subject to the law and rules established for jails. Please refer to the following documentation below for clarification.

- **Title 74. Chapter 6- Charitable Institutions and Jails (Section 192) Inspection of City and County Jails-**

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*B. Any county, city, or town may operate a holding facility for the incarceration of persons under arrest who are to be charged with a crime, which holding facility shall not be required to meet the standards established in this section for jails, as long as no person is held therein for a period longer than twelve (12) hours and as long as an employee of the county, city, or town is available to render aid to or to release any person so confined in the event aid or release is required because of a health or life-endangering emergency.*

You may also access the above information on our website here: <http://jails.health.ok.gov>. If you have any questions, please call me at (405) 271-9444 x 57273.

Sincerely,

Espanola Bowen, MCJA, M.Ed  
Administrative Program Manager/ Jail Inspection Division  
Protective Health Services

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