Chapter:	Agency Supports and Controls	**Effective Date: 9/29/26**
Title/Rule:	**Monitoring and Inspections**	Page: 1 of 4
ACA:	5-JCF-7A-09	New

(a) **Policy.**

The Texas Juvenile Justice Department's (TJJD's) Monitoring and Inspections division shall establish, implement, and maintain a comprehensive system of monitoring, inspections, reviews, evaluations, and oversight activities to promote accountability, ensure compliance, enhance safety, mitigate risk, and support continuous improvement throughout the Texas juvenile justice system.

(b) **Applicability.**

This policy applies to all departments, programs, facilities, and operations within the Texas juvenile justice system that are subject to compliance monitoring, inspections, and performance review.

(c) **General Provisions.**

(1) The Monitoring and Inspections division shall independently and objectively evaluate state-operated facilities and programs, contracted service providers, county-operated juvenile probation departments, secure detention and correctional facilities, and non-residential programs to assess compliance with applicable federal and state laws, administrative rules, contracts, policies, procedures, standards, and operational requirements.

(2) To fulfill its oversight responsibilities, the Monitoring and Inspections division shall employ inspections, investigations, assessments, compliance reviews, camera monitoring, performance evaluations, and risk management activities to evaluate operations, physical plants, services, programs, and progress toward established goals and performance outcomes. The division shall continually assess and refine its monitoring methodologies, processes, and resource allocation strategies to strengthen organizational effectiveness, coordination, safety, compliance, and system outcomes.

(3) The Monitoring and Inspections division shall maintain and administer systems for monitoring facility capacity and space requirements, operational practices, program effectiveness, and established measurable goals, objectives, expected performance, and outcomes. These monitoring systems shall be reviewed at least annually and revised as necessary to ensure continued effectiveness, alignment with TJJD strategic priorities, and responsiveness to emerging risks and operational needs.

(d) **Procedures.**

(1) **Monitoring, Oversight, and Compliance Activities.**

The Monitoring and Inspections division shall conduct inspections, monitoring, reviews, audits, evaluations, investigations, and technical assistance activities to assess compliance with applicable laws, rules, contracts, policies, procedures, standards, and agency requirements. Monitoring activities may be comprehensive, focused, announced, or unannounced, and may include, but are not limited to, reviews of operations, physical plants, programs, services, performance, and corrective action efforts.

(A) **Performance and Management Review.**

The Monitoring and Inspections division shall maintain a system to monitor operations, programs, facility needs, performance, and established goals and objectives through inspections, reviews, and assessments. Monitoring and review processes shall be evaluated

at least annually and updated as necessary to support continuous improvement and alignment with agency strategic priorities.

(B) **Documentation and Reporting.**

The Monitoring and Inspections division shall maintain documentation of inspections, reviews, assessments, monitoring activities, and corrective action efforts. The division shall prepare periodic reports, performance summaries, and annual review documentation to evaluate progress toward established goals and objectives; identify trends; and support management decision-making. Monitoring results shall be communicated through appropriate reporting and review processes.

(C) **Risk-Based Monitoring and Continuous Improvement.**

The Monitoring and Inspections division shall use a risk-based approach to determine the frequency, scope, and intensity of inspections, monitoring activities, and technical assistance. Risk assessments shall be used to prioritize resources and address areas presenting the greatest potential risk to youth, staff, facilities, programs, county governments, and the state.

(2) **Monitoring and Inspections Functional Areas.**

The Monitoring and Inspections division is organized into the following functional areas: State Operations; County Operations; Safety, Risk, and Compliance; and PREA Compliance.

(A) **State Operations.**

(i) State Operations is responsible for conducting oversight of state-operated and contracted facilities, programs, residential services, and parole operations and special projects as directed. Through comprehensive monitoring, inspections, and evaluations, the Monitoring and Inspections division assesses compliance with TJJD policies, established standards, applicable regulations, and contractual requirements. These efforts are intended to promote safe, secure, effective, and accountable operations while supporting continuous improvement in service delivery and outcomes for youth.

(ii) To enhance its oversight and evaluation functions, the Monitoring and Inspections division utilizes camera monitoring systems, including body-worn cameras and fixed cameras. These tools may be used to assess operational practices, evaluate staff–youth interactions, review critical incidents, monitor adherence to TJJD policies and procedures, and identify opportunities for performance improvement, training, and risk mitigation. The use of such technology supports transparency, accountability, and TJJD's commitment to maintaining safe and professional environments.

(iii) Interviews are conducted with staff and youth to determine operational strengths, areas of concern, and compliance with TJJD policies and procedures.

(iv) Findings and recommendations are submitted to executive leadership to support facility improvement and accountability.

(B) **County Operations.**

(i) County Operations is responsible for conducting inspections, monitoring activities, and oversight of county juvenile probation departments, secure and non-secure facilities, and juvenile justice programs in accordance with the Family Code, Human Resources Code, Administrative Code, and other applicable laws, rules, and standards. Through a structured and risk-informed approach, the Monitoring and Inspections division evaluates compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements while promoting the consistent application of best practices across the juvenile justice system.

(ii) Monitoring activities may include, but are not limited to, compliance reviews, risk assessments, facility inspections, program evaluations, performance improvement plan approval and follow-up, corrective action plan development and follow-up, data analysis, and ongoing performance monitoring. The Monitoring and Inspections division also provides technical assistance, guidance, and support to county departments to help strengthen operations, address identified deficiencies, and foster continuous improvement. These efforts are intended to enhance the safety and security of youth, staff, and the public; promote accountability and transparency; and improve the overall effectiveness and quality of juvenile justice services throughout the state.

(C) **Safety, Risk, and Compliance.**

(i) Safety, Risk, and Compliance is responsible for overseeing and administering TJJD's comprehensive risk management and compliance program. Through a coordinated approach that includes, but is not limited to, inspections, investigations, compliance reviews, and training initiatives, Safety, Risk, and Compliance works to identify, evaluate, and mitigate operational, safety, and regulatory risks across TJJD. These efforts are designed to ensure adherence to applicable laws, regulations, policies, and professional standards while fostering a culture of accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement.

(ii) Inspections and oversight activities shall be conducted through established monthly, quarterly, and annual review processes, as well as through targeted reviews when warranted by identified risks or emerging concerns. Safety, Risk, and Compliance evaluates operational practices, safety protocols, corrective actions, and compliance to identify areas for improvement and reduce potential risks. In partnership with TJJD leadership and operational divisions, Safety, Risk, and Compliance promotes safe, secure, and effective operations, supports informed decision-making, and helps ensure the protection of youth, staff, and agency resources.

(D) **PREA Compliance.**

(i) PREA Compliance is responsible for providing TJJD-wide oversight, guidance, and support to ensure compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards and related TJJD policies and procedures. Through training, technical assistance, monitoring, investigations, data analysis, and compliance reviews, PREA Compliance works to strengthen TJJD's efforts to prevent, detect, respond to, and eliminate sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and retaliation involving youth in its care.

(ii) PREA Compliance conducts ongoing monitoring and assessment activities to evaluate compliance with PREA requirements, identify areas of risk, and support continuous improvement in facility and program operations. These activities may include, but are not limited to, facility reviews, documentation assessments, incident and investigative reviews, corrective action monitoring, and consultation with operational staff and leadership. To support these efforts, PREA Compliance utilizes camera monitoring systems, including body-worn cameras and fixed cameras, as well as other approved review and monitoring processes to assess operational practices, staff-youth interactions, incident response, and adherence to PREA standards and TJJD policy. These efforts promote accountability, transparency, and TJJD's commitment to maintaining safe environments that protect youth from sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

(3) **Monitoring and Inspections Operations Support Team.**

(A) The Operations Support Team provides operational, administrative, and technical support services to the Monitoring and Inspections division and its functional areas. The team serves

as a centralized resource for facilitating the execution and documentation of monitoring, inspection, compliance, investigative, and review activities across the division.

(B) The team performs monitoring activities, inspections, investigations, compliance reviews, technical assistance efforts, and special projects as directed.

(C) The team works collaboratively with all functional areas within Monitoring and Inspection division to promote consistency, efficiency, accountability, and effective oversight of TJJD operations, programs, facilities, and services.