



ACCREDITATION INSPECTION 2023-2024 Summary and Report Clay County Sheriff's Office Detention Center

Clay County Sheriff's Office
Attn: Sheriff Will Akin
14 S. Water Street
Liberty, Missouri 64068

6 March 2024

Sheriff Will Akin,

Thank you for your commitment to the Legal-Based Jail Guidelines[®] and Accreditation offered through the National Institute for Jail Operations. In reference to your commitment to the high standards of operations for the Clay County Jail, we have completed the audit and review for the Accreditation process per your request.

Meeting the operational level of accreditation is challenging and demands focus and attention. Your support and commitment to operating the facility within compliance requirements of the legal based guidelines has enhanced your facilities' operation, increased professionalism and proactively served to protect against liability and other risk management issues. Historical statistics show counties that actively participate with the NIJO Legal-Based Jail Guidelines accompanied with the inspection or accreditation program account for 28% - 33% of jail liability losses, compared to the national average of 71%, a significant decrease and savings for those participating counties.

The Legal-Based Guidelines are derived from case law and all the compliance requirements are provided throughout the entire process. Our audit team closely reviews the submitted policies, required proofs and completes onsite verification for nearly all the guidelines. The entire accreditation process is intended and designed to be an up-front transparent process. A facility which operates in compliance to the guidelines will be significantly enhanced and may be better prepared for any potential litigation while creating a safer, more secure and professional facility.

The accreditation inspection team divided the process into three phases. In the first phase, trained inspectors reviewed your submitted policies to ensure compliance to each guideline. During the second phase, inspectors reviewed the documentation and proofs submitted in support of the policy. The third phase was the onsite verification.

The NIJO pre-inspection and onsite verification team consisted of Darin Durfey and John Young. The inspectors began reviewing documentation for the accreditation process in February of 2023 and conducted the onsite inspection February 9-10, 2024. The inspection team expressed high compliments to the professionalism demonstrated by the jail officers and staff they interacted with during this intensive onsite process. The inspectors interacted with various staff members of the facility over two days and two different shifts in a random manner at the discretion of the inspector. While interviewing and observing staff on Posts and/or moving throughout the facility, staff did not



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hesitate to assist in answering questions or to provide information or documents requested by the inspection team. Staff appeared professional in manner and uniform. The facility was very clean and well maintained. Observed security procedures appeared to be routine and part of normal daily operations.

In its entirety, the accreditation process is meant to be a verification of your agency's policy, procedures and operation to the guidelines and the compliance requirements contained therein. The final report of the accreditation inspection, inspector comments and all other documentation related to the verification inspection and accreditation process by the inspection team have been posted in the AARMS online program for your review and perusal.

The NIJO inspection team wishes to recognize individual staff for their hard work and open cooperation through the accreditation process, particularly the following:

Amber Brumley
Tracey Happy
Mabel McIntosh
Tracy Wade

During the accreditation, NIJO inspectors found that the Clay County Sheriff's Office accreditation team initiated steps to bring their processes in the review to a higher level. The policy, procedure and proofs were reviewed and found to be in compliance with the guidelines and clearly documented what the topics covered.

NIJO inspection team wishes to thank the numerous other staff members that were interviewed or shadowed during the on-site inspection. By scoring each guideline, the inspection team could assign an overall compliance rank, necessary to distinguish which level of accreditation was earned. Specific information for any non-compliant ratings during the process is accessible through the reports and will have a specific reason for the rating of non-compliant. The primary goal of the entire process is to provide opportunity for facilities to achieve the level of compliance which they are seeking and NIJO inspectors can verify through proper documentation and visually inspect onsite. As a facility, Clay County set the goal of 100% compliance and was very near that rating at the end of the onsite review. Upon completion of the onsite review, out of 614 guidelines, there were 6 non-compliant standards. The NIJO accreditation process allows for a 30-day review period for the facility to submit updated policy and or proofs to be considered before final scoring is completed. With changes made in this 30-day process, your facility scored 100% in the Core Standards and 100% in the Non-core standards achieving **Level 1 Accreditation**, the highest level offered by the National Institute for Jail Operations.



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We congratulate you and your staff for this significant achievement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tate N. McCotter'.

Tate N. McCotter
Executive Director
National Institute for Jail Operations