

Sheriff  
County Sheriff's Office  
Street  
City/State

Dear Sheriff:

October 26, 2009

As you are aware, the Local Corrections Officer Training Act of 2003 directed county jails to begin collecting a fee of \$12.00 from all persons admitted into their jail. *"Beginning August 1, 2003, each person who is incarcerated in the county jail shall pay a fee of \$12.00 to the county sheriff when the person is admitted into the jail."* The act also states that *"...in a county for which the sheriffs coordinating and training council has certified that the county's standards and requirements for the training of local corrections officers equals or exceeds the standards and requirements approved by the sheriffs coordinating and training council...."* *"Once each calendar quarter, the sheriff shall forward \$2.00 of each fee collected to the state treasurer for deposit in the local corrections officers training fund...."* *"The remaining \$10.00 of each fee shall be retained in the county to be used only for costs relating to the continuing education, certification, recertification, and training of local corrections officers and inmate programs including substance abuse and mental health programs in that county."*

This portion of the act requires sheriff offices to meet the standards set by the Council under authority of the local corrections officer training act or they must submit all of the booking fees collected to the local corrections officer training fund.

The Council, in accordance with the Act, established successful completion of the local corrections officer training academy as one of the criteria for a local corrections officer to be certified. This action took place during a MSCIC meeting held on January 6, 2004. In addition to the requirement of officer certification, on May 26, 2005, an annual in-service training standard was established by the Council in accordance with the Act. This standard set a requirement of twenty (20) hours of in-service training on an annual basis for all local corrections officers employed by a sheriff's office. The training must have a direct relationship to the local corrections officer's job responsibilities.

The Council, at the same meeting, established the following criteria for a county to be initially certified. The submittal and acceptance of "a letter from the Sheriff of the County stating that the Sheriff's office standards and requirements for the training of local corrections officers will meet or exceed the training standards for local corrections officers as established by the Michigan Sheriffs Coordinating and Training Council.

A letter complying with that requirement was received and accepted by the Council for all Sheriff's Offices employing corrections officers. All of the county's letters had been submitted to and approved by the Council as of March 26, 2006.

In 2006, only 35.8% of sheriff offices satisfied the in-service training standard and the 2007 compliance numbers are only marginally better (43%). While the Council understands that this is a new training requirement and adds to your burden as a Sheriff, we strongly encourage Sheriffs to attend to this standard. The long road to professionalizing the position of corrections officer has been difficult but valuable. Fortunately, this is not an unfunded mandate. To fail to train is both a liability risk and a failure to realize the benefits of this statute. The Training Council stands ready to assist you in any way to put an in-service training standard in place. Your effort will validate your commitment to running safe, secure and humane county jails. It will also serve to assist the Council in our duties as an oversight body.

Sincerely,

James C. Reed  
Executive Secretary