December 9, 2015 Letter/No Identified Recipients On Oregon Jail Standards

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The Oregon State Sheriff's Association (OSSA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting Oregon Sheriffs. OSSA provides free or low-cost training to Sheriffs and their deputies on a variety of issues, including jail management. This training is especially critical for counties with limited resources, who might otherwise not be able to afford training. Jails are a frequent source of legal claims against counties, and in order to help address these issues and reduce liability for counties, OSSA implemented a set of voluntary best practices for Oregon jails in 1999. Those best practices, the OSSA Jail Standards, provide guidance on a wide variety of issues such as jail management, security, sanitation and inmate programs. The standards are completely voluntary, and no jail is required to comply with or use the OSSA jail standards. OSSA has continually updated the jail standards, at significant expense, to make sure they are current.

The Oregon Jail Standards are copyrighted materials, and no one other than OSSA is authorized to provide a copy of the standards to anyone without our express written permission. On several occasions OSSA has provided the Jail Standards to its partners but only when the document is protected under judicial seal. We understand that this may be frustrating to our media partners, however OSSA must take these steps because the Jail Standards have a safety and security value to our Sheriffs and their jails and they have an actual economic value to OSSA.

Thank you,

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