

Direct Supervision Jails: A Management Model for the 21st Century

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The detention process is not a popular issue with the public. Increased concern about crime has led more people to support the "lock up, throw away the key" perception and to cry out against early release of state prisoners. Incarceration remains, however, a constitutional mandate and direct supervision is the most efficient and effective way to confine someone. Dismissed initially as only a passing fad, the undeniable conclusion is that direct supervision is real and here to stay. This concept alone - more than anything else we find - provides direction for the future. This study reviews the history and principles of direct supervision, explores salient management, issues and goes into some detail sharing practical lessons from the Hillsborough County, Florida experience.