



423<sup>RD</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT  
CHRISTOPHER D. DUGGAN, JUDGE

ANDREA R. PARTIDA  
*Criminal Court Coordinator*  
(512) 581-7137  
(512) 581-4038 fax  
andrea.partida@co.bastrop.tx.us

804 Pecan Street  
Bastrop, Texas 78602  
  
MICHELE FRITSCHE  
*Official Court Reporter*

DEBORAH SHIROCKY  
*Civil Court Coordinator*  
(512) 581-4037  
(512) 581-4038 fax  
deborah.shirocky@co.bastrop.tx.us

March 15, 2022

Mr. Joel Lieurance  
Senior Policy Monitor  
Texas Indigent Defense Commission  
209 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 202 (Price Daniel Building)  
Austin, Texas 78701

Re: Bastrop County's Response to TIDC's Fiscal Monitoring Report and Policy  
Monitoring Review of Bastrop County

Dear Mr. Lieurance:

The District Judges and the County Court at Law, who serve Bastrop County, and the Bastrop County Auditor's Office have formulated the following response to TIDC's Fiscal Monitoring Report and Policy Monitoring Review of Bastrop County from January 2022:

**Texas Indigent Defense Commission Fiscal Monitoring Report Issued January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Finding One:

Response: We concur and have a Corrective Action Plan prepared.

Action Plan: Bastrop County will develop new processes and procedures to identify and record expenses for the TIDC IDER Report to ensure correct expenditures and accurate final case counts. This process will include keeping a detailed ledger as well as bimonthly evaluations of all invoices. The Bastrop County Auditor's Office will work closely with the courts to ensure that the changes outlined in the recommendations are implemented appropriately.

Contact Person: Amber Quinley

Completion Date: March 1, 2022

Finding Two - Fee Schedule:

Response: The District Judges serving Bastrop County concur and have a Corrective Action Plan prepared.

Action Plan: The District Judges serving Bastrop County will review the fee schedule and will modify and adopt a new fee schedule that is consistent with current payment practices in accordance with the requirements of Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 26.05(b). Additionally, the District Judges will not approve any vouches that fail to comply with the new fee schedule. (\*\*All Action Plans are subject to change when the Office of Court Administration promulgates new rules for the implantation of Senate Bill 6 later in 2022).

Contact Persons: Hon. Judge Reva Towslee Corbett, 335<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court; Hon. Judge Carson T. Campbell 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Court; and Hon. Judge Christopher D. Duggan, 423<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District Court.

Completion Date: June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

**Texas Indigent Defense Commission Policy Monitoring Review of Bastrop County's Indigent Defense Systems issued January 2022**

Requirement 1 – Conduct Prompt and Accurate Article 15.17 Proceedings – Finding 1: Bastrop County must implement procedures to ensure that counsel requests are transmitted to the appointing authority within 24 hours of the request being made.

Response: The District Judges and the County Court at Law Judge serving Bastrop County concur and have a Corrective Action Plan prepared.

Action Plan: The District Judges and the County Court at Law Judge serving Bastrop County, with the cooperation and assistance of all of the magistrates that serve Bastrop County and the Bastrop County IT Department, will implement a new system that electronically forwards the request for appointed counsel to the appointing authority (the District Judges office in the case of felonies) so that the requests are received within 24 hours of the request being made. (\*\*All Action Plans are subject to change when the Office of Court Administration promulgates new rules for the implantation of Senate Bill 6 later in 2022).

Contact Persons: Hon. Judge Reva Towslee Corbett, 335<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court; Hon. Judge Carson T. Campbell 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Court; and Hon. Judge Christopher D. Duggan,

423<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District Court for felonies. Hon. Judge Benton Eskew, County Court at Law, for misdemeanors and juvenile cases.

Completion Date: June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

Requirement Finding 2: Requirement satisfied. No findings.

Requirement Finding 3: Requirement satisfied. No findings.

Requirement Finding 4: Appoint Counsel Promptly – Finding 2 (Felony Cases): The County must implement practices that satisfy Article 1.051(c) (1) timeline.

Response: The District Judges serving Bastrop County concur and have a Corrective Action Plan prepared.

Action Plan: The District Judges serving Bastrop County, with the cooperation and assistance of all of the magistrates that serve Bastrop County and the Bastrop County IT Department, will implement a new system that will electronically forward the requests for appointed counsel to the appointing authority (the District Judges office in the case of felonies) so that the requests are received within 24 hours of the request being made. Requests for appointed counsel received by appointing authority (the District Judges Office), that qualify for appointed counsel, will then receive approval and counsel will be appointed within 24 hours of receiving the request. (\*\*All Action Plans are subject to change when the Office of Court Administration promulgates new rules for the implantation of Senate Bill 6 later in 2022).

Contact Persons: Hon. Judge Reva Towslee Corbett, 335<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court; Hon. Judge Carson T. Campbell 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Court; and Hon. Judge Christopher D. Duggan, 423<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District Court.

Completion Date: June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

Finding 3 (Misdemeanor Cases): The County must implement practices that satisfy Article 1.051(c) (1) timeline.

Response: The County Court at Law Judge serving Bastrop County concurs and has a Corrective Action Plan prepared.

Action Plan: The County Court at Law Judge serving Bastrop County, with the cooperation and assistance of all of the magistrates that serve Bastrop County and the Bastrop County IT Department, will implement a new system that will electronically forward the requests for appointed counsel to the appointing authority (the County Court at Law office in the case of misdemeanors) so that the requests are received within 24 hours of the request being made. Requests for appointed counsel received by appointing authority (the County

Court at Law Office), that qualify for appointed counsel, will then receive approval and counsel will be appointed within 24 hours of receiving the request. (\*\*All Action Plans are subject to change when the Office of Court Administration promulgates new rules for the implantation of Senate Bill 6 later in 2022).

Contact Person: Hon. Judge Benton Eskew, County Court at Law of Bastrop County, Texas

Finding 4 (Juvenile Cases): The County must implement practices that satisfy Tex. Family Code Section 51.101(d) timeline.

Response: The County Court at Law Judge serving Bastrop County concurs and has a Corrective Action Plan prepared.

Action Plan: The County Court at Law Judge serving Bastrop County, with the cooperation and assistance of all of the magistrates that serve Bastrop County and the Bastrop County IT Department, will implement a new system that will electronically forward the requests for appointed counsel to the appointing authority (the County Court at Law office in the case of juvenile cases) so that the requests are received within five days of the filing of a petition. Requests for appointed counsel received by appointing authority (the County Court at Law Office), that qualify for appointed counsel, will then receive approval and counsel will be appointed within the five working days after the petition is filed. (\*\*All Action Plans are subject to change when the Office of Court Administration promulgates new rules for the implantation of Senate Bill 6 later in 2022).

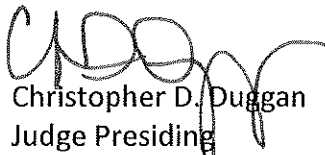
Contact Person: Hon. Judge Benton Eskew, County Court at Law of Bastrop County, Texas

Requirement Finding 5: Requirement satisfied. No findings.

Requirement Finding 6: Requirement satisfied. No findings.

Please let us know if the response is satisfactory to TIDC or if you have any questions regarding the response.

Sincerely,

  
Christopher D. Duggan  
Judge Presiding  
423<sup>rd</sup> District Court