



Policy Monitor Report – Review of Wichita County Indigent Defense Systems

Initial Report Released: February 14, 2011

First Follow-up Report Released: November 26, 2012

Second Follow-up Report Released: November 22, 2016

Summary of Findings

Prompt and Accurate Magistrate Warnings

2011 Recommendation: Wichita County must ensure that reasonable assistance is provided to arrestees in completing affidavits of indigence at the time of magistration as required by Article 15.17 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. **(Resolved in 2016 Review)**

Timely Appointment of Counsel - Adults

2011 Recommendation: Wichita County must ensure that all requests for counsel are ruled upon before any waivers of counsel are signed, pursuant to Article 1.051(f-2). It appears that the root cause of invalid waivers of counsel is that if a defendant requests counsel at magistration that the courts are not always notified of the request. **(Resolved in 2016 Review)**

2011 Recommendation: Wichita County must examine its appointment processes for both felony and misdemeanor cases and must implement procedures that ensure timely appointment of counsel. Task Force rules require that a recommendation be made regarding timely appointments of counsel if less than 90 percent of the monitor's sample is timely. **(Resolved in 2016 Review)**