



COLLIN COUNTY JUDGE CHRIS HILL

April 7, 2020

Texas Indigent Defense Commission
209 West 14th Street, Room 202
Austin, TX 78701

RE: Second Follow-Up Policy Monitoring Review of Collin County's Indigent Defense Systems (Feb 2020)

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your Second Follow-Up Policy Monitoring Review report dated February 2020. At Collin County, we take pride in our dedication to continuous improvement in serving our citizens. We appreciate the opportunity to work with TIDC in these efforts.

Effective October 1, 2019, Collin County established a Magistrate Court with a full-time Magistrate who is supported by several part-time magistrates. Since her appointment as Magistrate, Judge Bronchetti has worked to bring more rigor to the processes surrounding magistration, including increasing the number of magistration sessions to two times a day, seven days a week, 365 days per year.

With respect to the pending open item from February 2020's report, "Collin County magistrates must perform each duty listed in Article 15.17(a), including giving the required warnings to non-English speaking or deaf arrestees in a manner consistent with Articles 38.30 and 38.31", Collin County has implemented the following:

- Jail staff have been directed to explicitly NOT provide advice to inmates in any language.
- All magistrate warnings required by Article 15.17(a) are conducted exclusively by the magistrate.
- OCA's Texas Court Remote Interpreter Service is used routinely by the Magistrate Court to provide qualified Spanish language interpreting services via videoconference
- Collin County's contracted vendors for both spoken and non-spoken language interpretation services are being consistently utilized for magistration hearings.



- Collin County is in the process of vetting and contracting with additional language service providers to ensure our needs for qualified deaf and lesser spoken languages are being met.

We value the role TIDC fulfills in monitoring the County's compliance with the requirements of the Fair Defense Act and look forward to continuing to improve our processes in support of the citizens of Collin County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Chris Hill