

Foy O'Brien

DAWSON COUNTY JUDGE

P.O. Box 1268
Lamesa, Texas 79331

Phone 806 872-7544

August 13, 2020

TIDC conducted a review for Dawson County on February 18, 2020 on misdemeanor case files and magistrate forms and interviewed local officials. Findings of the reviewed case samples reveal application for counsel was not ruled on in a timely manner. After several meetings with Justice of the Peace Larry Duyck, Municipal Judge Dimas and Sheriff Matt Hogg, the breakdown in communication was determined. To remedy this lapse in continuity Dawson County will enact the following policy.

When the defendant requests a court appointed attorney and successfully completes the application, the Magistrate and jail staffer will sign and date the application. The application will then be scanned and emailed to the Court Coordinator and myself. By this method we will have clear documentation of the application and who is in possession of it. The email will also indicate the date and time of day it was sent. This will also remedy the problem of defendants attending County Court without my knowledge of their request for an attorney and granting a request for a waiver of counsel to speak with the County Attorney directly.

Dawson County would like to thank TIDC for their help and their efforts to make Dawson County the best it can be.

Sincerely,



Foy O'Brien

Dawson County Judge

