

# County of Goliad



**MIKE BENNETT**  
**COUNTY JUDGE**

P.O. Box 677  
Goliad, Texas 77963  
[mbennett@goliadcountytx.gov](mailto:mbennett@goliadcountytx.gov)

(361) 645-3337

March 20, 2023

Texas Indigent Defense Commission  
209 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 202  
Austin, TX 78701

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Please find below Goliad County's response to the **TIDC SECOND FOLLOW-UP POLICY MONITORING REVIEW OF GOLIAD COUNTY'S INDIGENT DEFENSE SYSTEMS -- MARCH 2023**.

**FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REQUIREMENT 1:**  
**Conduct prompt and accurate magistration proceedings**

At the time of these magistration proceedings, Judge Bennett was not aware that appointments could be made during the proceedings; the usual procedure, as is used when the JPs handle the proceedings, were followed. As soon as he was made aware that the appointments should be made during the initial hearing, that was adopted as the protocol for the county.

Also, it was understood that the jail personnel would forward the paperwork to the clerk's and county attorney's offices. The county judge was not made aware that this was not happening until the meeting with TIDC/TRLA representatives.

**FINDING AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REQUIREMENT 4**  
**Appoint Counsel Promptly**

All *Affidavit of Indigence* forms are reviewed by the county judge and returned to the clerk's office within 24 hours; generally, they are returned within 1 hour. Per the protocol established with the cooperation of the clerk's office, the county attorney's office, and TRLA, that office is then responsible for forwarding all relevant paperwork to the appointed counsel.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Bennett", followed by a horizontal line.

Mike Bennett

## Additional Statements from Goliad Officials

When we magistrate we complete an affidavit of Indigence form (when requested) and send it to the clerk's office

**JAMES L. SCHULZE**

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PCT. TWO

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As soon as we receive the Affidavit of Indigence (usually an emailed copy from the JPs or County Judge), we stamp it "Received" then present the affidavit to the appropriate Judge for either approval or denial. Then it is file stamped and it is **immediately** sent to TRLA. We send both the approved and denied applications. Our turn-around time is improving.

Vickie Quinn, Goliad County District Clerk

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**From:** Judge Williams <[KWilliams@cscd.net](mailto:KWilliams@cscd.net)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2023 9:31 AM

**To:** Joel Lieurance <[JLieurance@tidc.texas.gov](mailto:JLieurance@tidc.texas.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Goliad County Monitoring Report Response

What we've been doing is the clerk (which is a combined office) will have Judge Bennett do the felony applications if he's available, if not they will send it to me.