

**Morris County
State of Texas**

Re: Notification of Application
For: Contract Indigent Defense Attorney and Conflict Indigent Attorney
Period: October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023

Sealed applications shall be submitted no later than:

Date/Time: **5:00 pm Wednesday, August 31, 2022**

Mark Envelopes: **Indigent Attorney Application.**

All applications are to be sent to Judge Rolston, 276th Judicial District Judge, at 500 Broadnax, Suite J, Daingerfield, TX 75638.

Morris County appreciates your time and effort in preparing an application. Please note that all applications must be received at the designated location by the deadline shown. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered for award of the contract. Applications will be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, September 12, 2022 at 9:00 am in the Morris County Courthouse, Daingerfield, Texas. You are invited to attend.

Applications may be withdrawn by the attorney at any time prior to the official opening, but must be withdrawn in person. Alterations may not be made to an application once submitted, but a new application may be submitted if the substitution occurs before the opening time. After the official opening, applications may not be amended or altered and may not be withdrawn without the approval of the District Judges.

Applications will be opened and reviewed by Judge Rolston, Judge Saucier, and Judge Reeder on the date above. They will be evaluated on:

- (a) experience and qualifications of applicant;
- (b) applicant's past performance in representing defendants in criminal cases;
- (c) applicant's disciplinary history with the state bar;
- (d) applicant's ability to comply with the terms of the contract; and
- (e) cost of the services under the contract

Attorneys shall be responsible for three different categories of cases in the County and District Courts System, which include appeals for the Contract Indigent Defense Attorney.

- (a) Felonies
- (b) Misdemeanor
- (c) Juveniles

Contract Indigent Defense Attorney shall also accept appointment and provide legal services required for conducting any probable cause hearing required by Section 570.025 of the Health and Safety Code.

Capital Murder cases in which the death penalty is sought will not be handled under the current contract. Those cases will be special cases that will be appointed by the District Judges as they arise.

Applications shall address experience and costs of services along with any other relevant information.

Contract Indigent Defense Attorney awarded contract must be easily accessible and be willing to work with the District Attorney on indigent cases.

Attorneys must meet the minimum attorney qualification requirements of the local indigent defense plan for criminal and juvenile cases. Therefore, the attorney shall:

1. Be a member in good standing with the State Bar of Texas;
2. Professionally perform duties and responsibilities of a licensed attorney for the State of Texas;
3. Complete annually such Continuing Legal Education programs as required by the Texas Judicial Council and local rules of Morris County for attorneys representing indigent accused persons, which shall include at least 6 hours of Continuing Legal Education pertaining to juvenile law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and at least 6 hours of continuing legal education pertaining to criminal law during each 12-month reporting period or be currently certified in criminal law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

Drafts of the contracts are enclosed for your review. Please contact the district judges for any question.