

**Supplement to Local Rules Regarding Initial Contact and Initial Interview by
Attorneys on the Criminal Court Appointment Lists**

Regarding appointments for defendants in the McLennan County Jail, appointed counsel shall:

Notify the Indigent Defense Coordinator within three (3) working days of the appointment that the attorney has:

- a. personally interviewed the defendant at the jail, by video-conference or in appropriate private conference facilities at the jail, as soon as practicable after the attorney is appointed or
- b. has made initial contact with the defendant by letter or telephone

If initial contact made by letter or telephone to a defendant in the McLennan County Jail, then the appointed counsel shall:

Notify the Indigent Defense Coordinator within 48 hours of the initial contact (*as set out in statement b above*) that the attorney has:

- a. personally interviewed the defendant at the jail, by video-conference or in appropriate private conference facilities at the jail, as soon as practicable after the attorney is appointed

Regarding appointments for defendants on bond, appointed counsel shall:

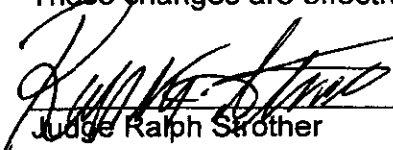
Notify the Indigent Defense Coordinator within five (5) working days of the appointment that the attorney has:

- a. personally interviewed the defendant at the attorney's office or
- b. personally interviewed the defendant at the Courthouse on the same date as the appointment or
- c. contacted or attempted to contact the defendant by letter or telephone.

All notifications listed above are required to be done using the following link on the McLennan County web page using the link:

<http://tx-mclennancounty.civicplus.com/265/Office-for-Criminal-Appointed-Attorney>

These changes are effective July 1, 2016.



Judge Ralph Strother



Judge Matt Johnson



Judge Mike Freeman



Judge Brad Cates

Removal from Appointment List

The Criminal Court Judges will monitor attorney performance on a continuing basis to assure the competence and qualifications of attorneys on all lists.

Grounds for Removal

1. Any attorney failing to properly and adequately report CLE hours for the preceding reporting period by January 31 of any year will be automatically removed from all appointment lists.
2. Any attorney failing to properly and adequately file an annual report with the Texas Indigent Defense Commission will be automatically removed from all appointment lists.
3. An attorney may be removed or suspended, as appropriate, from one or more appointment lists if the attorney:
 - a. has twice or more failed to contact or interview clients in a timely manner as required by Article 26.04(j)(1), Code of Criminal Procedure; or
 - b. has submitted a claim for legal services not performed as specified in Article 26.05(e), Code of Criminal Procedure; or
 - c. fails to maintain compliance with the minimum qualification requirements or the duties of appointed counsel; or
 - d. has been found by a court to have provided ineffective assistance of counsel; or
 - e. has violated a rule of professional responsibility; or
 - f. has been convicted of or received a deferred adjudication for any an offense, other than an offense punishable by a fine only; or
 - g. is under indictment or has been formally charged with an offense, other than an offense punishable by a fine only; or
 - h. has intentionally misrepresented statements on the application for the appointment list; or
 - i. has consistently failed to perform, personally, necessary services for the defendant by requesting or directing other attorneys to perform duties required of the appointed attorney, or
 - j. has twice or more failed to comply with local court rules regarding reporting initial contacts and/or initial interviews to the Indigent Defense Coordinator, or
 - k. an attorney may also be removed from the appointment list for any other stated good cause as determined by the Judges hearing the referral.

