

HENRY GARZA
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
27TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS
BELL COUNTY

April 1, 2020

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE BELL COUNTY DA'S OFFICE, #2

To the Members of the Bell County Bar Association and Defense Attorneys:

The Bell County District Attorney's office is in the process of transitioning to a system that will allow participants to appear remotely for court settings. We are in collaboration with the District Courts, the Bell County Sherriff's department and the Bell County IT department to accomplish this goal. We are also beginning to work on a system that will allow you to sign plea paperwork electronically and will allow you to have your clients also sign the documents electronically. We are also working on a system that would allow you to teleconference with your client without the cost that is associated with the Securus system. Sherriff Lange is supportive of doing what he can do to facilitate a successful transition.

My office is currently setup with the teleconference system known as Lifesize which permits teleconferencing like the Zoom application. It is a system that is recommended by the Bell County IT department and we believe has less security concerns than Zoom.

Our office has already tested the teleconference system and we find that it works well. It also has a feature which permits defense counsel and your client to opt out if there is the need for a private discussion during a hearing. This has been tested and works.

My hope is that this system can begin as soon as next week. We will send out information to address what you need to do at your end and how to access the teleconference hearing once we are ready to start.

We will need your cooperation and assistance to begin to implement and streamline this system. At this time, we have your e-mail addresses that are used for access to the defense portal; please, update your e-mail address with us if there are any requested changes. Our current plan is to begin to send the plea papers via e-mail that will allow for the electronic signatures.

PAUL R. MCWILLIAMS
FIRST ASSISTANT

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SEAN K. PROCTOR
ASSISTANT

MICHAEL WALDMAN
ASSISTANT

LESLIE MCWILLIAMS
ASSISTANT

BOB D. ODOM
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DANA NELSON
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KATHERINE NOLDEN
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BILLY L. CURRY
CHIEF
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR

GREG HOLLOWAY
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KARL ORTIZ
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MICHAEL SIMMONS
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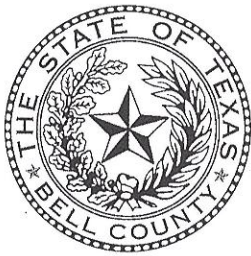
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DANA BETTGER
VICTIM/WITNESS COORDINATOR

BETSY CRUZ
VICTIM/WITNESS COORDINATOR

ASHLEE TREVINO
VICTIM/WITNESS COORDINATOR





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27TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS
BELL COUNTY

Please continue to contact our office by telephone or e-mail only. Again, I want to thank you for working with us to protect the health and safety of all members of our community.

Sincerely,


Henry Garza

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FIRST ASSISTANT

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