



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

Monday, April 27, 2020

Additional Information regarding Securus and SignNow, electronic signatures

To whom it may concern,

Securus video calls

As you know our office has coupon codes which will allow a free visit with your client using the Securus video call system. I hope that many of you have been successful in utilizing this valuable tool. After speaking with some of the local defense bar we identified some issues regarding only using the codes for the purpose of finalizing and signing plea papers. We understand the limitations being created by not being able to teleconference with your client at an earlier stage as cases continue to be filed. We have reached out to Securus and have been successful in expanding the use of the Securus codes so you may use them in connection with contacting your client via Securus for anything in relationship to the legal process, including for example waiver of arraignments and discussing new plea offers.

My office will continue to keep and administer the coupon codes to attorneys as the need arises. You can obtain them by sending an e-mail Stacy McClinton at Stacey.McClinton@bellcounty.texas.gov and make the request. Please feel free to contact Stacy McClinton for any help concerning Securus.

SignNow, Electronic Signatures

We have also had success in using the SignNow electronic signatures for obtaining the signatures needed on the plea papers. As a courtesy, we have also created a template form that includes the trial court certificates and jail credit sheet. If you would like to utilize the template form, please let the assigned prosecutor know and we can also send you a link to the SignNow application for the signing of these documents as well when we send the link to sign the plea papers. The template form is blank and gives the

PAUL R. MCWILLIAMS
FIRST ASSISTANT
★★
SEAN K. PROCTOR
ASSISTANT
MICHAEL WALDMAN
ASSISTANT
LESLIE MCWILLIAMS
ASSISTANT
BOB D. ODOM
ASSISTANT
STEPHANIE R. NEWELL
ASSISTANT
SHELLY STRIMPLE
ASSISTANT
FRED BURNS
ASSISTANT
ANNE M. JACKSON
ASSISTANT
JOHN ERSKINE
ASSISTANT
CRISTIN LANE
ASSISTANT
ERICA MORGAN
ASSISTANT
DEBBIE A. GARRETT
ASSISTANT
DANA NELSON
ASSISTANT
KATHERINE NOLDEN
ASSISTANT
★★
BILLY L. CURRY
CHIEF
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR
GREG HOLLOWAY
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR
KARL ORTIZ
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR
MICHAEL SIMMONS
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR
BRIAN BOBÉ
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR
★★
DANA BETTGER
VICTIM/WITNESS COORDINATOR
BETSY CRUZ
VICTIM/WITNESS COORDINATOR
ASHLEE TREVINO
VICTIM/WITNESS COORDINATOR



attorney the ability to fill in the required information and obtain a signature at the same time as the signing of the plea papers. The process will remain the same regarding the signing of the plea papers and you will continue to have the opportunity to go over the paperwork with your client, using the Securus video call system. E-mail the following address to set up an appointment between 8 am and 4 pm to obtain the defendant's electronic signature:

bcjail.signnow@bellcounty.texas.gov

Please state in your e-mail: defendant's name, cause number for each case you are requesting a signature, and that you are ready for your client's signature. You will have to set up an appointment on Securus to correspond with the time provided by the jail.

Once you and your client have signed, the plea papers will be e-filed by our office. The trial court certificates, and jail credit sheet will be e-mailed back to you once the signatures are obtained and you may e-file those documents.

We are hopeful that these changes will make the process easier and as safe as possible for everyone involved by allowing you to limit contact visits at the jail while still maintaining communication with your client throughout the criminal prosecution.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SN', is written over a faint dotted line.

Stephanie Newell
First Assistant District Attorney