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HARDIN COUNTY COURT
300 MONROE ST
KOUNTZE, TX 77625

RECEIVED
FEB 08 2024
COUNTY JUDGE

January 29, 2024

Re: Notice of Interlocal Cooperation Contract (ICC) for Failure to Appear (FTA) Program

Dear Court Administrator,

Due to changes occurring in the 88th Legislative Session, the Department revised the FTA contract (ICC). This notice is to inform you of the changes and the need to sign a new contract to continue your participation in the FTA program. You must return the signed contract (ICC) **within 90 days** from the date of this notice to continue participating in the program.

The following changes have been made to the contract (ICC):

- Changes to language and restructuring of the original ICC to provide clarity regarding the specific responsibilities held by each party.
- Inclusion of indigency into the program as mandated by House Bill 291, 88th Legislative Session.
- Language to account for future changes to the current statute, either federal or state, ensuring that the ICC remains in compliance with the latest legal requirements until a revised ICC is available.

It is imperative that all participants in the FTA program adhere to these updated terms to ensure the program's continued effectiveness and compliance with relevant legislation. Submit the completed and signed contract (ICC) by mail, email, or fax. Please ensure you address this attention to FTA Program.

Mailing address:

Enforcement & Compliance Service

5805 North Lamar Blvd, Bldg A,

Austin, TX 78752-0300

E-mail: driver.improvement@dps.texas.gov

Fax: (512) 424-2848

Should you have any questions, please send an email to driver.improvement@dps.texas.gov. Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Regards,
Manager
Enforcement and Compliance Service

Enclosure

**Interlocal Cooperation Contract
Failure to Appear Program**

State of Texas

County of _____

I. PARTIES AND AUTHORITY

This Interlocal Cooperation Contract (Contract) is entered into between the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas (DPS), an agency of the State of Texas and the _____ Court of the [City or County] of _____ (Court), a political subdivision of the State of Texas, referred to collectively in this Contract as the Parties, under the authority granted in Tex. Transp. Code Chapter 706 and Tex. Gov't Code Chapter 791 (the Interlocal Cooperation Act).

II. BACKGROUND

A peace officer authorized to issue citations within the jurisdiction of the Court must issue a written warning to each person to whom the officer issues a citation for a traffic law violation. This warning must be provided in addition to any other warnings required by law. The warning must state in substance that if the person fails to appear in court for the prosecution of the offense or if the person fails to pay or satisfy a judgment ordering the payment of a fine and cost in the manner ordered by the Court, the person may be denied renewal of the person's driver license.

As permitted under Tex. Transp. Code § 706.008, DPS contracts with a private vendor (Vendor) to provide and establish an automated Failure to Appear (FTA) system that accurately stores information regarding violators subject to the provisions of Tex. Transp. Code Chapter 706. DPS uses the FTA system to properly deny renewal of a driver license to a person who is the subject of an FTA system entry generated from an FTA Report.

An FTA Report is a notice sent by Court requesting a person be denied renewal of a driver's license in accordance with this Contract. The Court may submit an FTA Report to DPS's Vendor if a person fails to appear or fails to pay or satisfy a judgment as required by law. There is no requirement that a criminal warrant be issued in response to the person's failure to appear.

III. PURPOSE

This Contract applies to each FTA Report submitted by the Court to DPS or its Vendor and accepted by DPS or its Vendor.

IV. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

This Contract will be effective on the date of execution and terminate five years from that execution date unless terminated earlier in accordance with Section VII.C, *General Terms and Conditions, Termination*.

V. COURT RESPONSIBILITIES

A. FTA Report

For a matter involving any offense which a Court has jurisdiction of under Tex. Code Crim. Proc. Chapter 4, where a person fails to appear for a complaint or citation or fails to pay or

satisfy a judgment ordering payment of a fine and cost in the manner ordered by the Court, the Court will supply DPS, through its Vendor, an FTA report including the information that is necessary to deny renewal of the driver license of that person. The Court must make reasonable efforts to ensure that all FTA Reports are accurate, complete, and non-duplicative. The FTA Report must include the following information:

1. the jurisdiction in which the alleged offense occurred;
2. the name of the court submitting the report;
3. the name, date of birth, and Texas driver license number of the person who failed to appear or failed to pay or satisfy a judgment;
4. the date of the alleged violation;
5. a brief description of the alleged violation;
6. a statement that the person failed to appear or failed to pay or satisfy a judgment as required by law;
7. the date that the person failed to appear or failed to pay or satisfy a judgment; and
8. any other information required by DPS.

B. Clearance Reports

The Court that files the FTA Report has a continuing obligation to review the FTA Report and promptly submit appropriate additional information or reports to the Vendor. The clearance report must identify the person, state whether or not a fee was required, and advise DPS to lift the denial of renewal and state the grounds for the action. All clearance reports must be submitted immediately, but no later than two business days from the time and date that the Court receives appropriate payment or other information that satisfies the person's obligation to that Court.

To the extent that a Court uses the FTA system by submitting an FTA Report, the Court must collect the statutorily required \$10.00 reimbursement fee from the person who failed to appear, pay or satisfy a judgment ordering payment of a fine and cost in the manner ordered by the Court. If the person is acquitted of the underlying offense for which the original FTA Report was filed or found indigent by the court, the Court will not require payment of the reimbursement fee.

Court must submit a clearance report for the following circumstances:

1. the perfection of an appeal of the case for which the warrant of arrest was issued or judgment arose;
2. the dismissal of the charge for which the warrant of arrest was issued or judgment arose;
3. the posting of a bond or the giving of other security to reinstate the charge for which the warrant was issued;
4. the payment or discharge of the fine and cost owed on an outstanding judgment of the Court; or
5. other suitable arrangement to satisfy the fine and cost within the Court's discretion.

After termination of the Contract, the Court has a continuing obligation to report dispositions and collect fees for all violators in the FTA system at the time of termination. Failure to comply with the continuing obligation to report will result in the removal of all outstanding entries of the Court in the FTA Report, resulting in the lifting of any denied driver license renewal status from DPS.

C. Quarterly Reports and Audits

Court must submit quarterly reports to DPS in a format established by DPS.

Court is subject to audit and inspection at any time during normal business hours and at a mutually agreed upon location by the state auditor, DPS, and any other department or agency, responsible for determining that the Parties have complied with the applicable laws. Court must provide all reasonable facilities and assistance for the safe and convenient performance of any audit or inspection.

Court must correct any non-conforming transactions performed by the Court, at its own cost, until acceptable to DPS.

Court must keep all records and documents regarding this Contract for the term of this Contract and for seven years after the termination of this Contract, or until DPS or the State Auditor's Office (SAO) is satisfied that all audit and litigation matters are resolved, whichever period is longer.

D. Accounting Procedures

Court must keep separate, accurate, and complete records of the funds collected and disbursed and must deposit the funds in the appropriate municipal or county treasury. Court may deposit such fees in an interest-bearing account and retain the interest earned on such accounts for the Court.

Court will allocate \$6.00 of each \$10.00 reimbursement fee received for payment to the Vendor and \$4.00 for credit to the general fund of the municipal or county treasury.

E. Non-Waiver of Fees

Court will not waive the \$10.00 reimbursement fee for any person that has been submitted on an FTA Report, unless any of the requirements in Tex. Trans. Code § 706.006(a) or §706.006(d) are met.

Failure to comply with this section will result in: (i) termination of this Contract for cause; and (ii) the removal of all outstanding entries of the Court in the FTA Report, resulting in the lifting of any denied driver license renewal status from DPS.

F. Litigation Notice

The Court must make a good-faith attempt to immediately notify DPS in the event that the Court becomes aware of litigation in which this Contract or Tex. Transp. Code Chapter 706 is subject to constitutional, statutory, or common-law challenge, or is struck down by judicial decision.

VI. DPS's RESPONSIBILITIES

DPS will not continue to deny renewal of the person's driver license after receiving notice from the Court that the FTA Report was submitted in error or has been destroyed in accordance with the Court's record retention policy.

VII. PAYMENTS TO VENDOR

Court must pay the Vendor a fee of \$6.00 per person for each violation that has been reported to the Vendor and for which the Court has subsequently collected the statutorily required \$10.00 reimbursement fee. In the event that the fee has been waived by Tex. Trans. Code § 706.006(a) or §706.006(d), no payment will be made to the Vendor.

Court agrees that payment will be made to the Vendor no later than the last day of the month following the close of the calendar quarter in which the payment was received by the Court.

DPS will not pay Vendor for any fees that should have been submitted by a Court.

VIII. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- A. Compliance with Law.** This Contract is governed by and construed under and in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas. The Court understands and agrees that it will comply with all local, state, and federal laws in the performance of this Contract, including administrative rules adopted by DPS.
- B. Notice.** The respective party will send the other party notice as noted in this section. Either party may change its information by giving the other party written notice and the effective date of the change.

Court	Department of Public Safety
Attn.:	Enforcement & Compliance Service
Address:	5805 North Lamar Blvd., Bldg A
Address:	Austin, Texas 78752-0001
Fax:	(512) 424-5311 [fax]
Email:	Driver.Improvement@dps.texas.gov
Phone:	(512) 424-7172

C. Termination.

Either party may terminate this Contract with 30 days' written notice.

DPS may also terminate this Contract for cause if Court doesn't comply with Section V.C., *Quarterly Reports and Audits* and V.E., *Non- Waiver of Fees*.

If either Party is subject to a lack of appropriations that are necessary for that Party's performance of its obligations under this Contract, the Contract is subject to immediate cancellation or termination, without penalty to either Party.

D. Amendments.

This contract may only be amended by mutual written agreement of the Parties.

E. Miscellaneous.

1. The parties shall use the dispute resolution process provided for in Chapter 2260 of the Texas Government Code to resolve any disputes under this Contract; provided

however nothing in this paragraph shall preclude either Party from pursuing any remedies available under Texas law.

2. This Contract shall not constitute or be construed as a waiver of any of the privileges, rights, defenses, remedies, or immunities available to either Party or the State of Texas.
3. Any alterations, additions, or deletions to the terms of the contract that are required by changes in federal or state law or regulations are automatically incorporated into the contract without written amendment hereto, and shall become effective on the date designated by such law or by regulation.

CERTIFICATIONS

The Parties certify that (1) the Contract is authorized by the governing body of each party; (2) the purpose, terms, rights, and duties of the Parties are stated within the Contract; and (3) each party will make payments for the performance of governmental functions or services from current revenues available to the paying party.

The undersigned signatories have full authority to enter into this Contract on behalf of the respective Parties.

Court*

Department of Public Safety

Authorized Signatory

Driver License Division Chief or Designee

Title

Date

Date

*An additional page may be attached if more than one signature is required to execute this Contract on behalf of the Court. Each signature block must contain the person's title and date.