

MASS GATHERING PERMIT PROCESS

From time to time, businesses or organizations may seek to hold events in unincorporated areas of Bailey County which would qualify as a Mass Gathering under the Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 751 which states:

- 1.) "Mass Gathering" means a gathering:
 - a. That is held outside the limits of a municipality;
 - b. That attracts or is expected to attract:
 - i. More than 2,500 persons or
 - ii. More than 500 persons, if 51 percent or more of those persons may reasonably be expected to be younger than 21 years of age and it is planned or may reasonably be expected that alcoholic beverages will be sold, served or consumed at or around the gathering; and
 - c. At which the persons will remain
 - i. For more than 5 continuous hours; or
 - ii. For any amount of time during the period beginning at 10 P.M. and ending at 4 A.M.

Additionally, permit is required for those events including "a horse or greyhound race that attracts or is expected to attract at least 100 persons, except that this chapter does not apply if the race is held at a location at which pari-mutual wagering is authorized under the Texas Racing Act." See Tex. Health and Safety Code 751.0021.

If the event plans you or your organization have, meet the above requirements, an application from the coordinator, manager, organizer, or promoter of such an event must be received in the County Judge's office not less than 45 days before the event. An application may be obtained by request form the County Judge's office at (906) 272-3077 during normal business hours. There is a \$500 application fee (nonrefundable) and a \$250 fire marshal inspection fee (nonrefundable) and a \$250 health inspection fee (nonrefundable) due at the time

of filing of the application. Additional cost deposit may be required for law enforcement at the time a permit is considered.

A public hearing will be conducted no later than ten (10) days before the event. A person may not promote a mass gathering without a permit issued by the County Judge, pursuant to Section 751.003 of the Texas Health and Safety Code. A person commits an offense if the person violates Section 751.003. An offense under this section is misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$1000.00, confinement in the county jail for not more than 90 days, or both. The County Judge's office will coordinate the hearing date and time with all affected parties. The hearing will be posted as a public meeting.

Representatives from the county health officer, fire marshal, Texas Department of Public Safety and the Sheriff's Office will attend the hearing to ensure that the minimum standards in health and sanitation, fire safety and public safety and order are maintained at the gathering as prescribed by state and local laws, rules and orders.

Following the public hearing, the County Judge will grant or deny the permit as authorized by Section 751.007 of the Texas Health and Safety Code. A copy of the applicable sections of the statute may be obtained from the Bailey County Judge's Office.

This Mass Gathering Order was implemented in 2018, by the Bailey County Commissioner's Court.