

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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COMMISSION
STEVEN P. MACH, CHAIRMAN
A. CYNTHIA LEON
STEVE H. STODGHILL

Date: January 15, 2020

Dear Court Administrator:

Enclosed please find the revised contract offered by the Texas Department of Public Safety to accommodate Chapter 706 of the Texas Transportation Code. Please complete all of the appropriate entries on the contract and arrange for the approval and signature of the presiding official authorized to sign contractual documents in your jurisdiction (mayor, city manager, county judge, etc.).

Only one (1) original signed contract should be submitted for each political subdivision; if you require a final copy for the court, please indicate so when you return the document. Signed contracts should be returned to:

Texas Department of Public Safety
Attn: Enforcement and Compliance Service
5805 North Lamar Blvd.
Austin, Texas 78752-0001

After the contract has been returned to the Department it will be processed for the appropriate signatures.

Any questions regarding the contract should be forwarded to Enforcement and Compliance Service; Tijuana Pendergrass at (512) 424-5431.

Sincerely yours,

Frances Gomez, Manager
Enforcement and Compliance Service

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**Interlocal Cooperation Contract
Failure to Appear (FTA) 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

As permitted under Tex. Transp. Code § 706.008, DPS contracts with a private vendor (Vendor) to provide and establish an automated 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.

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.

Court will supply information to DPS, through its Vendor, that is necessary to deny renewal of the driver license of a person who 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 in a matter involving any offense that Court has jurisdiction of under Tex. Code Crim. Proc. Chapter 4.

IV. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

This Contract will be effective on the date of execution and will automatically renew on the anniversary date of execution for up to three additional years unless terminated earlier.

V. COURT RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Written warnings

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. The written warning may be printed on the citation or on a separate instrument.

B. FTA Report

An FTA Report is a notice sent by Court requesting a person be denied renewal in accordance with this Contract. The Court may submit an FTA Report to 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. 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.

C. 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. If the person is acquitted of the underlying offense for which the original FTA Report was filed, 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 pay the fine and cost within the Court's discretion.

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.

D. 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.

E. 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.

F. 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 the person is deemed to be indigent, or the person is acquitted of the charges for which the person failed to appear.

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.

G. 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. PAYMENTS TO VENDOR

Court must pay the Vendor a fee of \$6.00 per person for each violation which 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 person has been acquitted of the underlying charge or is indigent, no payment will be made to the Vendor or required of the Court.

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 collected by Court.

VII. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- A. Compliance with Law.** 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. Contract Amendment.** DPS and Court may amend this Contract through a written amendment signed by an authorized signatory on behalf of the respective party.
- C. Notice.** The respective party will send the other party notice as noted in this section.

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

- D. 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.F., *Non-Waiver of Fees*. After termination, 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.

VIII. 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 Signature

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.