



**COUNTY ATTORNEY**  
Fort Bend County, Texas

BRIDGETTE SMITH-LAWSON  
County Attorney

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October 3, 2023

The Honorable Brian Middleton  
Fort Bend County District Attorney  
301 Jackson Street  
Richmond, TX 77469

RE: Protective Orders under Title 4, Family Code

Dear Mr. Middleton,

Pursuant to the authority of Texas Government Code Section 41.181(g), request is made by the Fort Bend County Attorney to the Fort Bend County District Attorney to continue the assumption of the responsibility for filing applications for protective orders under Title 4, Family Code<sup>1</sup>. This request confirms the long-standing course of dealings in Fort Bend County. This historical practice is justified for reasons of efficiency and because of the tendency of the factual allegations contained in applications for a protective order to describe criminal conduct. This memorandum confirms this practice and the agreement of the Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office to continue the aforementioned assumption of responsibility for the filing of applications for a protective order. I will ensure that a copy of this letter is recorded in the County records and that notice is provided to all law enforcement agencies in our jurisdiction.<sup>2</sup>

I appreciate your assistance with these matters. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are any questions about this request.

Very truly yours,

BRIDGETTE SMITH-LAWSON  
FORT BEND COUNTY ATTORNEY

Agreed:

Brian Middleton  
Fort Bend District Attorney

Date:

10/11/2023

<sup>1</sup> See TX Government Code Section 45.179 (d) "The county attorney has no power, duty, or privilege in Fort Bend County relating to family law and juvenile matters, except as provided by Subsection (c-1), protective orders under Title 4, Family Code, orders under Chapter 159, Family Code, and proceedings under Title 3, Family Code."

<sup>2</sup> See TX Family Code 81.007 (b) "The prosecuting attorney responsible for filing an application under this subtitle shall provide notice of that responsibility to all law enforcement agencies in the jurisdiction of the prosecuting attorney."