# **Fort Bend County**

## Weekend and Holiday Magistration Policy

Approved May 5, 2009 Revisions Approved September 24, 2013 Effective October 1, 2013

**Description:** Pursuant to Government Code 54.1954

Magistration within 24 hours of the arrest date is statutorily required for processing all arrested individuals (felony and misdemeanor). There is an average of 116 days per year that fall on weekends or holidays that require supplemental coverage to ensure statutory compliance. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Administrative Judicial District Judge assigns a visiting Judge to serve in this capacity. The magistration process averages between 4 and 6 hours per day. The State currently provides funds to cover a portion of the cost of this supplemental service. The County must fund any amount not paid by the State.

### Rate:

The magistration daily rate shall be 65% of the daily rate of a District Judge serving in Fort Bend County. The District Judge daily rate calculation includes the State salary (currently \$140,000) and the County supplement (currently \$18,000). The magistration daily rate calculation effective October 1, 2013 is:

\$158,000/253 (work days) =  $$625.51 \times 50\% = $310.76 -$ Amount paid by the State Comptroller directly to the judge.

The **County Supplements** the difference between 50% of the District Judges Pay and 65% which = \$95.82 per day paid through Payroll.

The State will fund 50% of the judge's salary but it is the responsibility of the County to fund the supplement, mileage and other related expenses for the judge. In the event that the State no longer has funds available then it becomes the responsibility of the County to fund the entire cost of the visiting judge until funding is available by the State.

#### **Process:**

The daily work records shall be approved by the Administrative District Judge of Fort Bend County and submitted to the Payroll division within the County Treasurer's Office for processing on the next bi-weekly payroll. The amount of compensation will be calculated as follows:

# of days served x county supplement daily rate = gross compensation

#### **Budget:**

The budget shall be funded within the Courts Administration-Indigent Defense temporary part-time lineitem (100555101-61100) and payroll taxes lineitem (100555101-62000). No other benefits are included in the compensation for magistration service. The County budget shall be set at the gross amount of compensation and payroll taxes less estimated State funding.

Robert Hebert, Fort Bend County Judge

10-10-2013

Date

Attest: Manue Wilson, Fort Bend County Clerk