



TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

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TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL DATA MANAGEMENT

NOTES OF MEETING FEBRUARY 4, 2009 Office of Court Administration Austin, Texas

ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS

The following members of the Committee were present:

Judge Lamar McCorkle, former Judge of the 133rd District Court, Harris County (Advisory Member)
Judge Olen Underwood, Presiding Judge of the 2nd Administrative Judicial Region (Advisory Member);
Ms. Bonnie Wolbrueck, former District Clerk, Williamson County (Advisory Member)

Participating by phone were:

Judge Glenn Phillips, Presiding Judge, Kilgore Municipal Court (Chair)
Judge Monica Gonzalez, San Antonio Municipal Court
Judge Valencia Nash, Justice of the Peace, Dallas County Precinct 1 Place 2 (Advisory Member)

Additionally present were Mary Cowherd, OCA Deputy Director and Director of Research and Court Services, and Angela Garcia, OCA Manager of Judicial Information.

Judge Russell Casey, Justice of the Peace, Tarrant County Precinct 3 Place 1, was not present.

INTRODUCTION

Mary Cowherd reviewed the summary of the major changes that had been proposed to the justice and municipal court monthly report forms by the OCA Justice and Municipal Court Data Workgroup, which was presented at the last meeting. She then noted the addition of instructions in the latest

version of the draft instructions about how criminal and civil cases are to be counted on the justice and municipal court reports.

DECISIONS OF COMMITTEE

The Committee reviewed the instructions for the Justice Court Monthly Report page by page, which included the monthly reporting changes recommended by the OCA Justice and Municipal Court Data Workgroup and the changes recommended by the Committee at its November 19, 2008 meeting. (Note: the instructions for the justice and municipal courts are nearly the same, so the review of the Justice Court report was essentially a review of the Municipal Court report. During the review, the Committee addressed items as they respectively apply to justice and municipal courts.)

The Committee made the following decisions:

1. Add “sanitation” as an example of a type of case to be reported for Non-Traffic Misdemeanors—County Ordinance violations in the Justice Court report.
2. Remove “cases transferred from another court” from the Municipal Court report and “cases remanded for new trial from appellate courts” from both the Municipal and Justice Court reports as examples of All Other Cases Added in the criminal section of the reports.
3. Add “cases in which a defendant is held elsewhere on state charges” as an example of a case Placed on Inactive Status in the criminal section of both reports.
4. Modify the instructions for Compliance Dismissals—Chemically Dependent Person in the criminal section of the reports to better clarify what type of information the item is intended to capture. Add a reference to Health and Safety Code, Ch. 462.
5. Remove “cases transferred from another court” from the Municipal Court report, “cases transferred from another county” from the Justice Court report, and “cases remanded for new trial from appellate courts” from both the Municipal and Justice Court reports as examples of All Other Cases Added in the civil sections of the reports.
6. Add a note to the Justice Court civil section stating that the disposition of a case is not to be reported until all matters in the case have been settled.
7. Remove the proposed Uncontested Civil Fines or Penalties category from the Justice Court civil section, as it does not seem to apply to justice courts.

At the end of the review of the instructions for the Justice Court report, Ms. Cowherd asked the Committee members if they had any comments or issues specifically regarding the Municipal Court report and the instructions for the report, and they did not.