

## FAIR DEFENSE ACT

### APPOINTMENT PROCEDURES

#### RESPONSIVE INTERVENTIONS FOR CHANGE DOCKET

In furtherance of the Fair Defense Act's primary goal of providing quality counsel to indigent defendants, and in accordance with the procedures of the alternative plan adopted by the judges trying criminal cases in Harris County, the Responsive Interventions for Change Docket will use the **individual case appointment** method of appointing attorneys. Attorneys will be paid in accordance with the established fee schedule.

**INDIVIDUAL CASE APPOINTMENTS** (See *Standards and Procedures*): The court will use the **individual case method** to appoint attorneys to represent indigent defendants as deemed necessary by the court.

#### QUALIFICATIONS

**Individual Case Appointments:** Attorneys selected for **individual case** appointments must meet the qualifications established by the Board of Judges and appropriate to the offense with which defendant is charged. See *Standards and Procedures*.

*Be on the current Harris County list of attorneys approved to accept felony appointments.*

*Be available to come to court five {5} days a week and be available for zoom meetings or conference calls after-hours and on weekends for emergencies.*

*Have experience working with offenders with substance use disorders and mental illness and have knowledge of appropriate treatment options.*

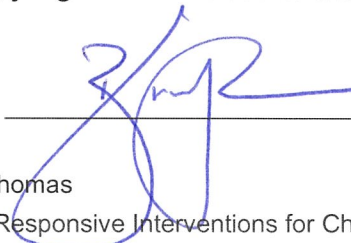
*Be proficient in search and seizure law.*

*To be eligible for the RIC Wheel: Attorneys must attend six {6} hours of training in the area of addiction and other RIC related competencies as directed by the presiding judge of the RIC Docket. Three {3} hours must be completed in person before an attorney may be considered for the wheel. Three {3} additional hours must be completed within the first six {6} months of placement on the wheel.*

*To remain on the RIC Wheel: Attorneys must complete at least three {3} hours of training as directed by the presiding judge of the RIC Docket in the area of addiction and other RIC related competencies every year.*

*The RIC Wheel will be limited to no more than twenty {20} attorneys. Open positions will be chosen from qualified attorneys by the presiding judge of the RIC docket and the Specialty Court sub-committee.*

Date Signed: 6/2/25

  
Brock Thomas  
Judge, Responsive Interventions for Change Docket