



HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT COURTS TRYING CRIMINAL CASES

ORDER AMENDING THE PROCESS AND PROCEDURE FOR THE DOCKETING AND TRANSFER OF CASES TO THE FELONY ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Pursuant to Rule 9(h)(7) of The Local Rules of the District Courts Trying Criminal Cases in Harris County, Texas, the *Criteria for Transfer of Cases to Felony Associate Judges* is modified as follows:

- Removal of the *per court* capacity limits for referrals to the Felony Associate Judges;
- Implementation of an initial limit of 25 cases total per Associate Judge Docket per day;
- Allowance for same day referrals of agreed pleas to the Felony Associate Judges;
- Courts may request an Associate Judge to preside over *voir dire* selection, as available. These assignments are based on order of request time in the Jury Request System and availability of courtroom space;
- The Felony Associate Judges may sign warrants, as available;
- The Felony Associate Judges may work on and hear 11.07 writs and prepare findings of fact from any hearing(s) held;
- Courts may request an Associate Judge to preside over a home court's docket if that court is in trial. These assignments are based on availability of an Associate Judge, by order of request time in the Jury Request System, and availability of courtroom space. A rotation trial calendar will be maintained to ensure all courts have the opportunity. Adequate notice must be provided.

Each matter transferred shall be designated as transferred with an appropriate docket entry and once forms and coding is created, by an associated JWEB entry. Upon completion of each matter transferred, the Associate Judge coordinator shall transfer the matter back to the home court and designate the return with the appropriate docket entry and once forms and coding is created, by an associated JWEB entry.

The Harris County District Court Administrator shall ensure that all Felony Associate Judge dockets are randomly created to ensure equalization to achieve balanced dockets and caseloads.

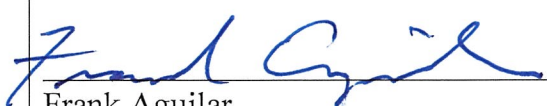

The Harris County District Clerk is further ORDERED to file this Order in the Special Minutes of the Court.

This Order Amending the Process and Procedure for the Docketing and Transfer of Cases to the Felony Associate Judges amends and supplants the Order signed April 11, 2022 and entitled *Criteria for Transfer of Cases to Felony Associate Judges*.

This Order is effective on the date of signing.

10-18-2022

Date signed

 Frank Aguilar Judge, 228 th District Court Chair, Felony Division Associate Judge Standing Committee	 Kelli Johnson Judge, 178 th District Court Administrative Judge of Harris County District Courts Trying Criminal Cases
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