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## **J. CLAY GOSSETT**

JUDGE  
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT  
RUSK COUNTY COURTHOUSE, SUITE 303  
115 NORTH MAIN  
HENDERSON, TEXAS 75652

November 5, 2024

Texas Indigent Defense Commission  
ATTN: Mr. Joel Lieurance  
209 West 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 202  
Austin, Texas 78701

RE: Texas Indigent Defense Commission Monitoring Review of Rusk County

Dear Mr. Lieurance:

Thank you for your review and report concerning Rusk County. In accordance with the TAC rules, please consider this our written response to be included in the final report.

### **Finding One**

The Court will review all cases in which defendants request counsel as per standards set out in the Indigent Defense Plan. The Court will make appropriate findings.

### **Finding Two**

The Court will make appropriate findings on the record if attorneys are replaced. This includes any Motion(s) to Withdraw which will be available for review.

### **Finding Three**

All requests for counsel will be ruled upon timely for felony and misdemeanor cases. Proper practices will be implemented.

### **Finding Four**

Process will be in place to insure all misdemeanor requests are ruled upon prior to defendant's waiver of counsel.

All matters referenced in the report have been or will be implemented immediately.

Sincerely,

J. Clay Gossett  
District Judge

Chad Wes Dean  
County Court at Law Judge

Joel Hale  
County Judge