

County of Goliad



MIKE BENNETT
COUNTY JUDGE

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April 27, 2026

Good morning,

Thank you for your latest follow-up and review of Goliad County's indigent defense process.

We are working diligently to improve our ratings with regards to timeliness of appointments of counsel for defendants.

As County Judge, I only performs ministrations on emergency basis, which leaves the magistrate duties to the Justices of the Peace.

Justice of the Peace Precinct #1 completes the process timely while JP Precinct #2 doesn't always forward the paperwork until days later. This is usually due to unavailability of the staff and the JP Judge.

Affidavits of Indigence are currently emailed to the County Clerk's office by the JP Clerks.

In the case of a misdemeanor charge, the affidavits are immediately hand-carried to my office and I immediately review the application for qualification as to the defendant's financial status guidelines as set out by TIDC. The affidavit is then returned that day to the County Clerk's office for further processing.

The County Clerk's office emails the affidavit to the appropriate appointed counsel.

This is done within 24 hours (weekdays), or the following Monday, if the defendant is arrested over the weekend.

Goliad County has greatly improved from previous years and we are still improving daily.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Mike Bennett", is written over a horizontal line.

R. Mike Bennett
County Judge