



BILL WHITMIRE
Milam County Judge

30 December 2025

Texas Indigent Defense Commission
ATTN: Joel Lieurance
209 W. 14th Street
Room 202
Austin, Texas 78701

Subject: Indigence Review Response Letter

Dear Mr. Lieurance

In response to the Review of Milam County's Indigent Defense Systems dated October 2025, I submit the following response summary of actions taken to correct the recommended findings.

2025 Finding 1 (misdemeanor cases) and 2025 Finding 2: Following the 2023 Review, there were several changes made to the system to improve the assignment of Court Appointed Counsel; however, there was still a discrepancy due to court appointments being made during arraignment following a defendants release from jail on bond. Defendants who had requested court appointments during magistration and were still held in jail were appointed counsel in a timely manner; however, those who were released on bail were delayed until their arraignment.

Going forward, the policy and practice will be to have all court appointment requests forwarded to my office in a timely manner to meet the state requirements and have appointments made in a timely manner regardless of whether the defendants have been released or are still in jail. This should rectify the issue and bring the misdemeanor cases in line with state guidelines as have been completed with felony cases.

Overall, Milam County is conscious of our past shortfalls and is working to correct these issues by improving the process. It is our hope that future reviews will continue to indicate improvement in these areas and that we will continue to progress as we move forward.

I appreciate your help in these matters and look forward to discussing this with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Whitmire". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Bill Whitmire
County Judge
Milam County, Texas