

**2025 ACCUSED'S INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING COURT-APPOINTED ATTORNEY FOR
FELONY CASES IN THE 443RD DISTRICT COURT**

The taxpayers of Ellis County are required to pay for services of the attorney appointed to represent you and you may be required to pay Ellis County back for that expense. In the event you receive a suspended sentence and are placed on community supervision, you may be required to pay those expenses back as a condition of supervision.

The attorney appointed by the Court will be notified the day the appointment is made by email through the automated system. A copy of the order appointing your attorney will be forwarded to the detention facility and given to you. Your attorney is then required to contact you.

If you post bond after you have requested an appointment of an attorney, it is your responsibility to contact the Indigent Defense Coordinator at (972) 825-5385 for the name, address and phone number of the attorney appointed to represent you.

In the event you hire an attorney of your own choosing after you have requested an appointed attorney, you may be required to pay Ellis County back for the expenses and services given by your court-appointed attorney. Your court-appointed attorney will not be released until the Court has received a motion for substitution signed by both attorneys.

The attorney appointed by the Court meets all legal criteria for representing you in this matter. Your attorney controls the case and you can decide (1) what your plea should be; (2) whether or not to waive a jury trial; and (3) whether or not to testify. You do not have a legal right to file legal motions or documents in the case. All motions, oral or written, must be prepared and filed by your attorney to be considered by the Court.

The attorney appointed only represents you and cannot discuss confidential or privileged information with your family members or loved ones.

The attorney appointed represents you solely for the legal matter on which the attorney has been appointed. The attorney appointed cannot provide you with legal advice on other matters.

The attorney appointed by the Court will not be relieved just because you are dissatisfied. You are not entitled to appointment of different counsel as long as present appointed counsel is providing legally effective representation. The judge is the sole person to make that determination.

**JUDGE PRESIDING
443RD DISTRICT COURT**