



OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION

DAVID SLAYTON
Administrative Director

June 13, 2013

Honorable Albert Cobb
County Judge, Hays County
111 E San Antonio St, Ste 300
San Marcos, Texas 78666-5541

RE: Memorandum of Understanding for Support of Continuity of Court
Operations in the Event of an Emergency

Dear Judge Cobb:

The purpose of this letter is to remind you that your county has not executed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Supreme Court of Texas for support of continuity of court operations in the event of an emergency.

We have all been reminded recently of how unexpectedly disasters can impact counties and courts. In order to be prepared for any unforeseen emergencies, including the upcoming hurricane season, you are strongly encouraged to execute an MOU. The MOU is simply a good neighbor policy meant to assist your fellow Texans in times of need.

A few years ago, the Supreme Court of Texas Task Force to Ensure Judicial Readiness in Times of Emergency developed, and the Supreme Court approved, an Interim Plan to Ensure Judicial Readiness in Times of Emergency. Under this plan, Texas counties can enter into an MOU with the Supreme Court in which each county agrees to support the continuity of court operations in any other county that experiences a disaster. Counties providing assistance pursuant to an MOU will be reimbursed for reasonable costs associated with that assistance. The MOU also provides for reciprocal assistance for your county's courts in the event of a disaster. Participation in the plan is voluntary.

Attached for your review is the interim plan. **The MOU form is attached as Appendix B to the interim plan.** Please note that the interim plan is still in effect and has not yet been replaced with a permanent plan.

One hundred fifty-two (152) counties have previously executed an MOU. Some of the MOUs have expired and we are currently notifying those counties. A list of the counties that have previously executed an MOU, including those with an expired MOU, can be found at:

<http://www.supreme.courts.state.tx.us/emtf/about.asp>.

If your county will participate, please complete and sign the attached MOU with a copy of Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson's signature affixed to it and return the signed copy to:

Blake Hawthorne
Clerk, Supreme Court of Texas
P.O. Box 12248
Austin, Texas 78711-2248

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Cowherd, Deputy Director, Texas Office of Court Administration, at mcowherd@txcourts.gov or 512/463-1629.

Sincerely,



David Slayton

attachments

cc: The Honorable John Ovard
The Honorable Olen Underwood
The Honorable Billy Ray Stubblefield
The Honorable David Peeples
The Honorable J. Rolando Olvera
The Honorable Stephen Ables
The Honorable Dean Rucker
The Honorable Jeff Walker
The Honorable Kelly G. Moore
Blake Hawthorne