

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF HOPKINS

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**State Funds for Indigent Criminal Defense**

- WHEREAS,** The right to assistance by legal counsel is guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution; and
- WHEREAS,** The State of Texas is required to implement this right and provide legal counsel to indigent criminal defendants; and
- WHEREAS,** The Texas Fair Defense Act, adopted by the Texas Legislature in 2001, implements this right and requires certain procedures and attorney appointments; and
- WHEREAS,** The Texas Legislature has failed to provide sufficient funding to offset the costs of the Fair Defense Act and has shifted this cost to county taxpayers; and
- WHEREAS,** County expenditures for indigent criminal defense have increased over 100 percent since the adoption of the Fair Defense Act; and
- WHEREAS,** The state funding is totally inadequate, providing approximately 12 percent of the indigent defense costs; and
- WHEREAS,** Indigent criminal defense is a state responsibility that should be adequately funded on a statewide basis, not a burden overwhelmingly borne by local property taxpayers; and

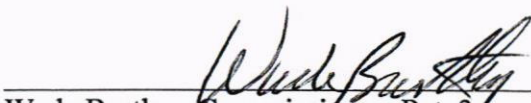
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Commissioners Court of Hopkins County, Texas does hereby request that the Texas Legislature fully fund the costs of indigent criminal defense.

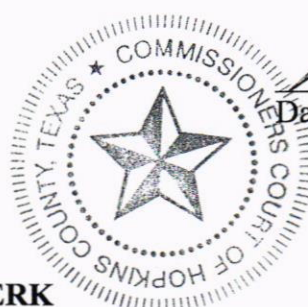
**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** by the Hopkins County Commissioners Court at the regularly scheduled meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017.

  
Robert Newsom, Hopkins County Judge

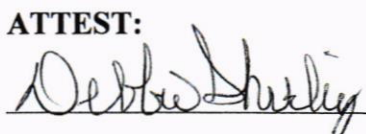
  
Mickey Barker, Commissioner, Pct. 1

  
Mike Odell, Commissioner, Pct. 2

  
Wade Bartley, Commissioner, Pct. 3



  
Danny Evans, Commissioner, Pct. 4

**ATTEST:**  
 **COUNTY CLERK**