



MARIAN BROWN
SHERIFF

DALLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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April 20, 2026

To: Dallas County Law Enforcement Partners,

The Dallas County jail population continues to hover near capacity, averaging anywhere from 93%-96% on a given day. Recently, we have seen local agencies bring individuals directly to the Dallas County jail without being properly and completely magistrated, instead of having the agency's qualified magistrates perform these duties. This practice shifts arresting agencies' statutory responsibilities for magistration to the Dallas County Sheriff's Office.

Article 15.17 of the Code of Criminal Procedure articulates that the arresting person shall take an arrested person before a magistrate without unnecessary delay, but no later than 48 hours after the arrest. Additionally, the magistrate should issue a commitment order after all components of the magistration process are complete.

The County Sheriff's responsibility to take custody of an individual, as outlined in Article 15.20 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, does not begin until after the arresting agency has ensured the defendant has been properly and completely magistrated.

Given the above, the Dallas County Sheriff's Office hereby gives notice to all law enforcement partners that effective **October 1, 2026**, **defendants will no longer be accepted into the Dallas County Jail without being properly magistrated and committed under the Code of Criminal Procedure, unless your agency has an agreement with Dallas County to provide magistration services.**

Dallas County is willing to enter into agreements with additional local agencies to assume magistration duties on behalf of arresting agencies. The Dallas County Sheriff's Office will provide updated forms and processes to your agency by the effective date. These forms will be used by law enforcement agencies to attest that each individual presented to the Dallas County jail for bookin has been properly and completely magistrated as required by the Code of Criminal Procedure.

If your agency would like to enter into an agreement with Dallas County to provide magistration services, please reach out to the Legal Advisor, Annissa Obasi at Annissa.Obasi@dallascounty.org or 214-653-2906, as soon as practical.

Sincerely,



Marian Brown, Sheriff
Dallas County, Texas

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INTERGITY • PROFESSIONALISM • ACCOUNTABILITY