

**INTERLOCAL COOPERATION CONTRACT
DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES
CONTRACT No. TBD**

The **DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES** (“**DSHS**” or “**SYSTEM AGENCY**”) and Waller County (“**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**”), each a “Party” and collectively the “Parties,” enter into the following contract for Local Government access to the Texas Electronic Vital Events Registrar (“Tx EVER”) (the “Contract”) pursuant to the provisions of the “Interlocal Cooperation Act,” *Tex. Gov’t Code* Chapter 791.

I. CONTRACT REPRESENTATIVES

The following will act as the representative authorized to administer activities under the Contract on behalf of its respective Party.

<u>DSHS</u>	<u>Local Government</u>
Name: Department of State Health Services	Name: Waller County
Attn: Contract Management Section	Attn: County Clerk
Address: 1100 W 49 th Street, MC-1990	Address: 425 FM 1488, Suite 112
City, State, and Zip: Austin, TX 78776-2679756	City, State, and Zip: Hempstead, TX 77445
Contact Person: Gretchen Wells	Contact Person: Debbie Hollan
Telephone: (512) 776-2679	Telephone: 979-826-7711
E-Mail: Gretchen.wells@dshs.texas.gov	E-Mail: d.hollan@wallercounty.us
Agency Number: 537	

II. STATEMENT OF SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED

The Parties agree to cooperate to provide necessary and authorized services and resources in accordance with the terms of the Contract. Specific services provided are described in **ATTACHMENT A, STATEMENT OF WORK**.

III. CONTRACT PERIOD AND RENEWAL

The Contract is effective on the signature date of the latter of the Parties to sign the Contract and expires **August 31, 2027**, unless renewed, extended, or terminated pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Contract. DSHS, at its sole discretion, may renew the Contract for up to one (1) additional year for a maximum Contract term of 5 years. Notwithstanding the limitation in the preceding sentence, and with at least 30 calendar days’ advance written notice to Local Government, at the end of the initial term or any renewal period, DSHS, at its sole discretion, may extend the Contract as necessary to ensure continuity of service, for purposes of transition, or as otherwise determined by DSHS to serve the best interest of the state of Texas for up to 12 months,

in one-month intervals, at the then-current Contract rate or rates (if applicable) as modified during the term of the Contract.

IV. AMENDMENT

The Parties to the Contract may modify the Contract only through the execution of a written amendment signed by both Parties.

V. FEES AND PAYMENT FOR SERVICES

All payments made by Local Government to DSHS in connection with the Contract, including the manner in which payments to DSHS by Local Government will be rendered, are stated in **ATTACHMENT C, STATEMENT OF WORK.**

VI. NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

- A.** All notices given by Local Government shall be in writing, include the Contract number, comply with all terms and conditions of the Contract, and be delivered to DSHS's Contract Representative identified above.
- B.** Local Government shall send legal notices to DSHS at the address below and provide a copy to DSHS's Contract Representative:

**Health and Human Services Commission
Attn: Office of the Chief Counsel
4601 W Guadalupe St. MC-1100
Austin, Texas 78751**

with copy to

**Department of State Health Services
Attn: Office of General Counsel
1100 W. 49th Street, MC-1919
Austin, TX 78756**

- C.** DSHS shall send legal notices to Local Government at the address below:

**Waller County
Attn: General Counsel
836 Austin St.
Hempstead, TX 77445**

- D.** Notices given by DSHS to Local Government may be emailed, mailed, or sent by common carrier. Email notices shall be deemed delivered when sent by DSHS. Notices sent by mail shall be deemed delivered when deposited by DSHS in the ~~er~~ States mail, postage paid, certified, return receipt requested. Notices sent by common carrier shall be

deemed delivered when deposited by DSHS with a common carrier, overnight, signature required.

- E.** Notices given by Local Government to DSHS shall be deemed delivered when received by DSHS.
- F.** Either Party may change its Contract Representative or Legal Notice contact by providing written notice to the other Party.

VII. CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

The following documents are incorporated by reference and made a part of the Contract for all purposes. In the event of a conflict, ambiguity, or inconsistency between the terms and conditions set forth in the documents that comprise the Contract, the controlling document shall be this Signature Document, then the remaining documents in the following list in the order stated:

ATTACHMENT A: HHS DATA USE AGREEMENT - GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY (VERSION 8.5).
ATTACHMENT B: HHS CONTRACT AFFIRMATIONS (VERSION 2.2); and
ATTACHMENT C: STATEMENT OF WORK.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- A. Exchange of Personal Identifying Information.** The Contract concerns the exchange of Confidential Information. Except as prohibited by applicable law or regulation, Local Government and DSHS may exchange such information in accordance with *Tex. Health and Safety Code* Chapter 191.
- B. Suspension of Services or Contract Termination.** Use of services under the Contract by Local Government for purposes inconsistent with the Contract or applicable law or regulation may result in suspension of services or termination of the Contract for cause by DSHS.
- C. Governing Law and Venue.** The Contract shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, without regard to the conflicts of law provisions. The venue of any suit arising under the Contract is fixed in any court of competent jurisdiction of Travis County, Texas, unless the specific venue is otherwise identified in a statute which directly names or otherwise identifies its applicability to DSHS.
- D. Confidentiality.** Local Government shall maintain as confidential and shall not disclose to third parties without DSHS's prior written consent, any DSHS information including but not limited to DSHS Data, DSHS's business activities, practices, systems, conditions, and services. This section shall survive termination or expiration of the Contract. This requirement must be included in all subcontracts awarded by Local Government. The Parties shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws relating to the privacy and confidentiality of data and records provided under the Contract, including, but not limited to, *Tex. Gov't Code* Section 552.115.
- E. Record Maintenance and Retention**
 - 1. Local Government shall keep and maintain under GAAP or GASB, as applicable, full, true, and complete records necessary to fully disclose to DSHS, the Texas State Auditor's Office, the United States Government, and their authorized representatives sufficient information to determine compliance with the terms and

conditions of the Contract and all state and federal rules, regulations, and statutes.

2. Local Government shall maintain and retain legible copies of the Contract and all records relating to the performance of the Contract, including supporting fiscal documents adequate to ensure that claims for Contract funds are in accordance with applicable state of Texas requirements. These records shall be maintained and retained by Local Government for a minimum of seven (7) years after the Contract expiration date or seven (7) years after the completion of all audits, claim, litigation, or dispute matters involving the Contract are resolved, whichever is later.

F. Dispute Resolution. To the extent that *Tex. Gov't Code* Chapter 2260 is applicable to the Contract, the dispute resolution process provided for in Chapter 2260, and the related rules adopted by the Texas Attorney General pursuant to Chapter 2260, shall be used by DSHS and Local Government to attempt to resolve any claim for breach of contract made by Local Government that cannot be resolved in the ordinary course of business.

G. Entire Agreement. The Contract contains all the terms and conditions between DSHS and Local Government relating to the matters set forth herein and no prior or contemporaneous agreement or understanding pertaining to the same shall be of any force or effect.

H. Force Majeure. Neither Local Government nor DSHS shall be liable to the other for any delay in, or failure of performance of, any requirement included in the Contract caused by force majeure. The existence of such causes of delay or failure shall extend the period of performance until after the causes of delay or failure have been removed provided the non-performing Party exercises all reasonable due diligence to perform. Force majeure is defined as acts of God, war, fires, explosions, hurricanes, floods, failure of transportation, or other causes that are beyond the reasonable control of either Party and that by exercise of due foresight such Party could not reasonably have been expected to avoid, and which, by the exercise of all reasonable due diligence, such Party is unable to overcome.

I. INDEMNIFICATION

1. **TO THE EXTENT ALLOWED BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHALL DEFEND, INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE STATE OF TEXAS, DSHS, AND HHSC, AND/OR THEIR OFFICERS, AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, REPRESENTATIVES, CONTRACTORS, ASSIGNEES, AND/OR DESIGNEES FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY, ACTIONS, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, OR SUITS, AND ALL RELATED COSTS, ATTORNEY FEES, AND EXPENSES ARISING OUT OF OR RESULTING FROM ANY ACTS OR OMISSIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OR ITS AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, SUBCONTRACTORS, ORDER FULFILLERS, OR SUPPLIERS OF SUBCONTRACTORS IN THE EXECUTION OR**

DSHS Contract No. HHSREV10000XXXX

**PERFORMANCE OF THE CONTRACT AND ANY PURCHASE ORDERS
ISSUED UNDER THE CONTRACT.**

- 2. THIS PARAGRAPH IS NOT INTENDED TO AND WILL NOT BE CONSTRUED TO REQUIRE LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO INDEMNIFY OR HOLD HARMLESS THE STATE OF TEXAS, DSHS, OR HHSC FOR ANY CLAIMS OR LIABILITIES RESULTING FROM THE NEGLIGENT ACTS OR OMISSIONS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, DSHS, OR HHSC OR ITS EMPLOYEES.**
- 3. FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBT, NEITHER THE STATE OF TEXAS, DSHS, NOR HHSC SHALL INDEMNIFY LOCAL GOVERNMENT OR ANY OTHER ENTITY UNDER THE CONTRACT.**

J. No Waiver of Sovereign Immunity. Nothing in the Contract shall be construed as a waiver of DSHS's, HHSC's, or the state of Texas' sovereign immunity. Neither the Contract nor any action or inaction of DSHS shall constitute or be construed as a waiver of any of the privileges, rights, defenses, remedies, or immunities available to the State of Texas, DSHS, or HHSC. The failure to enforce, or any delay in the enforcement of, any privileges, rights, defenses, remedies, or immunities available to the State of Texas, DSHS, or HHSC under the Contract or under applicable law or regulation shall not constitute a waiver of such privileges, rights, defenses, remedies, or immunities or be considered as a basis for estoppel. Neither the State of Texas, DSHS, nor HHSC waives any privileges, rights, defenses, or immunities available to the State of Texas, DSHS, or HHSC by entering into the Contract or by its conduct prior to or subsequent to entering into the Contract. Notwithstanding the forgoing, if Local Government is a state of Texas agency or department, district, authority, county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state of Texas, then nothing in the Contract will be construed to abrogate any rights or affirmative defenses available to Local Government under doctrines of sovereign and official immunity.

K. Severability. If any provision of the Contract is construed to be illegal or invalid, the illegal or invalid provision shall be deemed stricken and deleted to the same extent and effect as if never incorporated, but all other provisions shall continue.

L. Waiver. The failure of either Party to object to or to take affirmative action with respect to any conduct of either Party which is in violation or breach of the terms of the Contract shall not be construed as a waiver of the violation or breach, or of any future violation or breach.

M. Termination

- 1. Convenience.** Either Party may terminate the Contract without cause by giving 30 days' written notice of its intent to terminate to the non-terminating Party. The termination will be effective on the date specified in the terminating Party's notice of termination.

2. **Cause resulting from Material Breach.** Except as otherwise provided by the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, or any successor law, either Party may terminate the Contract, in whole or in part, upon the following condition:
 - i. Material Breach
If a Party determines, in its sole discretion, the other Party has materially breached the Contract or has failed to adhere to any laws, ordinances, rules, regulations or orders of any public authority having jurisdiction and such violation prevents or substantially impairs performance of the other Party's duties under the Contract.
3. **Cause resulting from Failure to Maintain Financial Viability.** DSHS may terminate the Contract if, in its sole discretion, DSHS has a good faith belief that Local Government no longer maintains the financial viability to fully perform its obligations under the Contract.

IX. CERTIFICATIONS

The undersigned contracting Parties certify that:

- A. The services specified above are necessary and essential for activities that are properly within the statutory functions and programs of each Party.
- B. Each Party executing the Contract on its behalf has full power and authority to enter into the Contract.
- C. The proposed arrangements serve the interest of efficient and economical administration of state and local government; and
- D. The services contracted for are not required by Section 21, Article XVI of the Constitution of Texas to be supplied under a contract awarded to the lowest responsible bidder.

DSHS further certifies that it has statutory authority to contract for the services described in the Contract under *Tex. Health and Safety Code* Chapter 191 and *Tex. Gov't Code* Chapter 791.

Local Government further certifies that it has statutory authority to contract for the services described in the Contract under *Tex. Health and Safety Code* Chapter 191 and *Tex. Gov't Code* Chapter 791.

SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS

SIGNATURE PAGE FOR DSHS CONTRACT No.TBD

DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

WALLER COUNTY

Signature

Manda Hall, MD

Printed Name

Associate Commissioner for Community Health
Improvement

Title

Date

Signature

Carbett "Trey" J. Duhon

Printed Name

County Judge

Title

Date