

Interlocal Cooperation Contract For the Failure to Appear Program

STATE OF TEXAS

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COUNTY OF _____

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I. Parties

This Interlocal Cooperation Contract ("this Contract") is made and entered into between the Texas Department of Public Safety ("TXDPS"), an agency of the State of Texas, and the _____ Court of the City or County of _____, a political subdivision ("Political Subdivision") of the State of Texas, which shall be referred to herein as "the Parties".

II. Overview

The purpose of this Contract is to implement the provisions of Texas Transportation Code, Chapter 706. The Political Subdivision is contracting with TXDPS to provide information necessary to deny renewal of the driver license of a person who fails to appear for a complaint or citation or fails to pay or satisfy a judgment ordering payment of a fine and cost in the manner ordered by the court in a matter involving any offense that a court has jurisdiction of under Chapter 4, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

TXDPS has a contract with a private vendor ("Vendor") pursuant to Texas Transportation Code §706.008. The Vendor shall provide the necessary goods and services to establish an automated system (referred to herein as the "FTA System") whereby information regarding violators subject to the provisions of Texas Transportation Code, Chapter 706, may be accurately stored and accessed by TXDPS. Utilizing the FTA System as a source of information, TXDPS may deny renewal of a driver license to a person who is the subject of an FTA System entry.

The Political Subdivision contracting with TXDPS shall pay monies to the Vendor based on a fee established by this Contract. TXDPS shall make no direct or indirect payments to the Vendor. The Vendor shall ensure that accurate information is available to TXDPS, the Political Subdivision and persons seeking to clear their license at all reasonable times.

III. Definitions

"Complaint" means the notice of an offense as defined in Article 27.14(d) or Article 45.019, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

"Department" or "TXDPS" means the Texas Department of Public Safety.

"Failure to Appear Program" or "FTA Program" means the implementation efforts of all parties, including those system components provided by TXDPS, political subdivisions and the Vendor, including the FTA System.

“Failure to Appear Report” or “FTA Reports” means a notice sent by the political subdivision requesting person(s) be denied renewal in accordance with this Contract.

“Failure to Appear System” or “FTA System” means the goods and services, including all hardware, software, consulting services, telephone and related support services, supplied by the Vendor.

“FTA Software” means the computer software developed or maintained now or in the future by the Vendor to support the FTA System.

“Originating Court” means the court in which an applicable violation has been filed for which a person has failed to appear or failed to pay or satisfy a judgment and which has submitted an appropriate FTA Report.

“State” means the State of Texas.

“Political subdivision” means a municipality or county of the State of Texas.

Unless otherwise defined, terms used herein shall have the meaning assigned by Texas Transportation Code, Chapter 706, or other relevant statute. Terms not defined in this Contract or by other relevant statutes shall be given their ordinary meanings.

IV. Application and Scope of Contract

This Contract applies to each FTA Report submitted to and accepted by TXDPS or the Vendor by the Political Subdivision pursuant to the authority of Texas Transportation Code, Chapter 706.

V. Required Warning on Citation for Traffic Law Violations

A peace officer authorized to issue citations within the jurisdiction of the Political Subdivision shall issue a written warning to each person to whom the officer issues a citation for a traffic law violation. This warning shall be provided in addition to any other warnings required by law. The warning must state in substance that if the person fails to appear in court for the prosecution of the offense or if the person fails to pay or satisfy a judgment ordering the payment of a fine and cost in the manner ordered by the court, the person may be denied renewal of the person’s driver license. The written warning may be printed on the citation or on a separate instrument.

VI. FTA Report

If a person fails to appear or fails to pay or satisfy a judgment as required by law, the Political Subdivision may submit an FTA Report to the Vendor containing the following information:

- (1) the jurisdiction in which the alleged offense occurred;
- (2) the name of the Political Subdivision submitting the report;
- (3) the name, date of birth and Texas driver license number of the person who failed to

- appear or failed to pay or satisfy a judgment;
- (4) the date of the alleged violation;
- (5) a brief description of the alleged violation;
- (6) a statement that the person failed to appear or failed to pay or satisfy a judgment as required by law;
- (7) the date that the person failed to appear or failed to pay or satisfy a judgment; and
- (8) any other information required by TXDPS.

There is no requirement that a criminal warrant be issued in response to the person's failure to appear. The Political Subdivision must make reasonable efforts to ensure that all FTA Reports are accurate, complete and non-duplicative.

VII. Clearance Reports

The Political Subdivision that files the FTA Report has a continuing obligation to review the FTA Report and promptly submit appropriate additional information or reports to the Vendor or TXDPS. The clearance report shall identify the person, state whether or not a fee was required, advise TXDPS to lift the denial of renewal and state the grounds for the action. All clearance reports shall be submitted immediately, but no later than two (2) business days, from the time and date that the Political Subdivision receives appropriate payment or other information that satisfies the person's obligation to that Political Subdivision.

To the extent that a Political Subdivision utilizes the FTA Program by submitting an FTA Report, the Political Subdivision shall collect the statutorily required \$30.00 administrative fee. If the person is acquitted of the underlying offense for which the original FTA Report was filed, the Political Subdivision shall not require payment of the administrative fee.

A clearance report shall be submitted for the following circumstances:

- (1) the perfection of an appeal of the case for which the warrant of arrest was issued or judgment arose;
- (2) the dismissal of the charge for which the warrant of arrest was issued or judgment arose;
- (3) the posting of a bond or the giving of other security to reinstate the charge for which the warrant was issued;
- (4) the payment or discharge of the fine and cost owed on an outstanding judgment of the court; or
- (5) other suitable arrangement to pay the fine and cost within the court's discretion.

TXDPS will not continue to deny renewal of the person's driver license after receiving notice from the Political Subdivision that the FTA Report was submitted in error or has been destroyed in accordance with the Political Subdivision's record retention policy.

VIII. Quarterly Reports and Audits

The Political Subdivision shall submit to TXDPS quarterly reports in a format established by

TXDPS.

The Political Subdivision is subject to audit and inspection at any time during normal business hours and at a mutually agreed upon location by the State Auditor, TXDPS, and any other department or agency, responsible for determining that the Parties have complied with the applicable laws. The Political Subdivision shall provide all reasonable facilities and assistance for the safe and convenient performance of any audit or inspection.

If any of the transactions performed by the Political Subdivision do not conform to this Contract or to TXDPS standards, TXDPS may require the Political Subdivision to perform the transactions again at its own cost until acceptable to TXDPS.

The Political Subdivision shall keep all records and documents regarding this Contract for the term of this Contract and for four (4) years after the termination of this Contract.

IX. Accounting Procedures

The Political Subdivision collecting fees pursuant to Texas Transportation Code §706.006 shall keep separate records of the funds and shall deposit the funds in the appropriate municipal or county treasury. The Political Subdivision may deposit such fees in an interest-bearing account and retain the interest earned thereon for the Political Subdivision. The Political Subdivision shall keep accurate and complete records of funds received and disbursed in accordance with this Contract and the governing statutes.

The Political Subdivision shall remit \$20.00 of each fee collected pursuant to Texas Transportation Code §706.006 to the Comptroller on or before the last day of each calendar quarter and retain \$10.00 of each fee to be allocated as follows: \$6.00 is for payment to the Vendor; and \$4.00 is credited to the general fund of the municipal or county treasury.

X. Payments to Vendor

TXDPS has contracted with a Vendor to assist with the implementation of the FTA Program.

The Political Subdivision shall pay the Vendor a fee of \$6.00 per person for each violation which has been reported to the Vendor and for which the Political Subdivision has subsequently collected the statutorily required \$30.00 administrative fee. In the event that the person has been acquitted of the underlying charge, no payment shall be made to the Vendor or required of the Political Subdivision.

The Political Subdivision agrees that payment shall be made by the Political Subdivision to the Vendor no later than the last day of the month following the close of the calendar quarter in which the payment was received by the Political Subdivision.

TXDPS shall have no responsibility to pay the Vendor for any fees collected by the Political Subdivision.

XI. Non-Waiver of Fee

The Political Subdivision shall not waive the \$30.00 administrative fee for any person that has been submitted on an FTA Report, even if the person is deemed to be indigent, unless (i) the person is acquitted of the charges for which the person failed to appear or (ii) the FTA Report was submitted in error.

Failure to comply with this section shall result in (i) termination of this Contract for cause and (ii) the removal of all outstanding entries of the Political Subdivision in the FTA Report, resulting in the lifting of any denied driver license renewal status from TXDPS.

XII. General Terms and Conditions

A. Compliance with Law

The Political Subdivision understands and agrees that it shall comply with all local, state and federal laws in the performance of this Contract, including administrative rules adopted by TXDPS.

B. Governing Law

This Contract is entered into pursuant to Texas Government Code, Chapter 791, and is subject to the laws and jurisdiction of the State of Texas and shall be construed and interpreted accordingly.

C. Venue

Except as otherwise provided by Chapter 2260 of the Texas Government Code, venue for any litigation between the Parties shall be Travis County, Texas.

D. Chapter 2260, Texas Government Code

The Political Subdivision shall use the dispute resolution process provided for in Chapter 2260 of the Texas Government Code and the applicable TXDPS administrative rules to attempt to resolve all disputes or contract claims arising under this Contract.

E. Litigation and Liability

In the event that the Political Subdivision is aware of litigation in which this Contract or Texas Transportation Code, Chapter 706 is subject to constitutional, statutory, or common-law challenge, or is struck down by judicial decision, the Political Subdivision shall make a good faith effort to notify TXDPS immediately.

Each Party to this Contract agrees that it shall have no liability whatsoever for the actions and/or omissions of the other Party's employees and officers, regardless of where the individual's actions and/or omissions occurred. Each Party is solely responsible for the actions and/or omissions of its employees and officers; however, such responsibility is only to the extent

required by Texas law. Where injury or property damage result from the joint or concurring acts and/or omissions of the Parties, any liability shall be shared by each Party in accordance with the applicable Texas law, subject to all defenses, including governmental immunity. These provisions are solely for the benefit of the Parties hereto and not for the benefit of any person or entity not a Party hereto; nor shall any provision hereof be deemed a waiver of any defenses available by law.

F. No Joint Enterprise

TXDPS is associated with the Political Subdivision only for the purposes and to the extent set forth herein, and with respect to the performance hereunder, the Political Subdivision is and shall be an independent contractor and shall have the sole right to supervise, manage, operate, control, and direct the performance of the details incident to its duties hereunder. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed or construed to create a partnership or joint venture, to create the relationships of an employer-employee or principal-agent, or to otherwise create any liability for TXDPS whatsoever with respect to the indebtedness, liabilities, and obligations of the Political Subdivision or any other party.

G. No Apparent Agency

Neither Party has authority for or on behalf of the other except as provided in this Contract. No other authority, power, partnership, or rights are granted or implied.

H. Contract Modification

No modifications, amendments or supplements to, or waivers of, any provision of this Contract shall be valid unless made in writing and signed by both Parties to this Contract.

I. Severability

If any provision of this Contract is held to be illegal, invalid or unenforceable under present or future laws effective during the term hereof, such provision shall be fully severable. This Contract shall be construed and enforced as if such illegal, invalid or unenforceable provision had never comprised a part hereof, and the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect and shall not be affected by the illegal, invalid or unenforceable provision or by its severance therefrom.

J. Non-Waiver of Defaults

Any failure of TXDPS, at any time, to enforce or require the strict keeping and performance of any provision of this Contract, shall not constitute a waiver of such provision, and shall not affect or impair same or the right of TXDPS at any time to avail itself of same. Any acceptance, payment, or use by TXDPS shall not constitute a waiver or otherwise impair or prejudice any right, power, privilege, or remedy available to TXDPS to enforce its rights, as such rights, powers, privileges, and remedies are specifically preserved.

K. Non-Incorporation

This Contract constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties with regard to the matters made the subject of this Contract. There are no verbal representations, inducements, agreements, understandings, representations, warranties, or restrictions between the Parties other than those specifically set forth herein.

L. Non-Assignment

Neither party shall assign its rights nor delegate its duties under this Contract without prior written consent of the other Party.

M. Headings

The headings, captions, and arrangements used in this Contract are, unless specified otherwise, for convenience only and shall not be deemed to limit, amplify, or modify the terms of this Contract, nor to affect the meaning thereof.

N. Interpretation Against the Drafter

Regardless of which Party drafted this Contract or the language at issue, any ambiguities in this Contract or the language at issue will not be interpreted against the drafting party.

O. Multiple Counterparts

This Contract may be executed in a number of identical counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original for all purposes. In making proof of this Contract, it shall not be necessary to produce or account for more than one such counterpart.

P. Effective Date of Contract

This Contract shall be in effect from and after the date that the final signature is set forth below. This Contract shall automatically renew on a yearly basis.

Q. Termination

1. Termination for Cause. Either Party may terminate this Contract if the other Party neglects or fails to perform or observe any of its material obligations herein, and such default continues for thirty (30) days following receipt of written notice of such default.
2. Termination for Convenience. Either Party, upon thirty (30) days written notice, may terminate this Contract in whole or in part.
3. Mutual Termination. This Contract may be terminated by mutual agreement and consent, in writing, of both Parties.

After termination, the local political subdivision has a continuing obligation to report dispositions and collect fees for all violators in the FTA System at the time of termination.

Failure to comply with this continuing obligation to report shall result in the removal of all outstanding entries of the Political Subdivision in the FTA Report, resulting in the lifting of any denied driver license renewal status from TXDPS.

R. Notice

Any notice required or permitted under this Contract shall be directed to the respective Parties at the addresses shown below and shall be deemed given: (1) when delivered in hand and a receipt granted; (2) when received if sent by certified mail, return receipt requested; (3) upon three business days after deposit in the U.S. mail; or (4) when received if sent by confirmed facsimile or confirmed email.

Political Subdivision

Attn: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Texas Department of Public Safety

Attn: Enforcement & Compliance Service

5805 North Lamar Boulevard

Austin, Texas 78752-0001

(512) 424-5311 [fax]

Driver.Improvement@dps.texas.gov

Either of the Parties may change its address or designated individual(s) to receive notices by giving the other Party written notice as provided herein, specifying the new address and/or individual and the date upon which it shall become effective.

XIII. Signature Authority

The signatory for the Political Subdivision hereby represents and warrants that he/she has full and complete authority to enter into this Contract on behalf of the Political Subdivision.

XIV. Certifications

The Parties certify that each Party paying for the performance of governmental functions or services must make those payments from current revenues available to the paying party.

The Parties certify that this Contract is authorized by the governing body of the Parties.

The Parties certify that each has the authority to enter into this Contract by authority granted in Texas Transportation Code, Chapter 706.

**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SAFETY**

POLITICAL SUBDIVISION*

Driver License Division Director
Or Designee

Authorized Signature

Title

Date

Date

*An additional page may be attached if more than one signature is required to execute this Contract on behalf of the Political Subdivision. Each signature block must contain the person's title and date.

