



**COMMISSIONERS COURT
COMMUNICATION**

COURT ORDER NUMBER _____
PAGE 1 OF 2
DATE: 10/15/2024

**SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO COURT ORDER NO. 69894
CONCERNING JUROR DONATIONS**

***** CONSENT AGENDA *****

COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Commissioners Court consider an amendment to Court Order 69894 concerning juror donations pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 61.003.

BACKGROUND

On November 23, 1993, through Court Order 69894, the Commissioners Court established guidelines for Tarrant County juror donations.

Under Court Order 69894, all juror donations are to be voluntary and dedicated for the benefit of children/youth under the authority of Child Protective Services (CPS), Juvenile Services (JS), and Family Court Services (FCS). Further, each donation is to be divided as follows: 80% to the CPS Board, 10% to the JS Board, and 10% to the Family Court Services Board. Combined, these services are listed on the juror services donation form as the Child Welfare Fund.

In 1995, the Texas Legislature, during its 74th session, amended Chapter 61 of the Government Code to add Section 61.003, which provides jurors with an option to donate their reimbursement for service to the Crime Victims Compensation Fund. Accordingly, the option was added to the Tarrant County Jury Services donation form. Section 61.003 was amended again in 1995 and 2016 to add the option for jurors to donate their reimbursement to the Child Welfare Board (later amended to add Child Protective Services or Child Services boards), and Veterans Treatment Court, respectively. Those options were also added to the Tarrant County Jury Services donation form.

The current version of Section 61.003 does not allow for the division of donations as outlined in Court Order 69894. To come into compliance with statute, therefore, it is requested the Commissioners Court consider amending Court Order 69894 to provide jurors an option to donate their reimbursement for service to one of the following three entities: Child Protective Services Board, State of Texas Crime Victims Compensation Fund, and Tarrant County Veteran's Treatment Court Fund.

Should the Commissioners Court approve this amendment, the Child Welfare Fund will be replaced by the Child Protective Services Board, the division of donations to the Juvenile Services Board and Family Court Services Board will discontinue, and one hundred percent of each juror donation will be made to the entity selected by the juror. This change will become effective upon circulation of the updated Jury Services donation form or January 1, 2025, whichever is earlier.

SUBMITTED BY	Administrator	PREPARED BY:	Kristen Camareno
		APPROVED BY:	Kristen Camareno



COMMISSIONERS COURT COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER: _____ DATE: 10/15/2024 PAGE 2 OF 2

This item has been approved by the Criminal District Attorney's Office.

FISCAL IMPACT

In FY 2024, approximately \$74,000.00 was received in juror donations. Of that, approximately \$45,000.00 was donated to Child Welfare, divided as follows: \$36,000.00 Child Protective Services Board, \$4,500.00 Family Court Services Board, and \$4,500.00 Juvenile Services Board. As a result of this action, neither the Family Court Services Board nor the Juvenile Services Board will receive juror donations.