



JUDGE ROBB CATALANO

CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT No. 3
401 WEST BELKNAP
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76196-0215
(817) 884-1356

BRITTANY A. BOBBITT
COURT COORDINATOR
(817) 884-1252

DEBBIE G. EDWARDS
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER
(817) 884-1359

March 23, 2020

Dear fellow Judges and Attorneys in the Tarrant County criminal courts,

If a jail case can be resolved by an agreed plea that is an essential function for all people working in the criminal justice system. The plea can be done remotely by video conference through the GoToMeeting application, without going to the jail or courtroom. GoToMeeting is free, please download this application to your smartphone or computer if you haven't already. It is my understanding that the jail has set up two phone lines for defense attorneys to call and set up appointments to speak with their jail client regarding plea negotiations when necessary. Defense attorneys will call Megan Martin at 817-884-6979 or Evelyn Johnson at 817-740-4383 and set up a time to speak with their client in the jail regarding plea negotiations. *Phone# corrected*

The plea process will then work like this (if you don't want to go to the jail or courtroom): Once a deal is reached, the DA prepares and signs the plea paperwork and emails it to the defense attorney who can sign it electronically and send it back to the court. The court can print it out and have the defendant sign it at the plea. Lawyers can be present remotely at plea through the GoToMeeting video conference which will be recorded. Defense attorney can talk to client privately if needed. Recording will be stopped and conference muted between everyone except lawyer and client.

If a lawyer on the wheel doesn't want to do in person or video conference pleas as described above, they can ask to be put on hold with the appointment office so they are not obtaining new appointed clients.

Thanks for your continued hard work and patience as we work through this situation together.

Sincerely,

/s/

Robb Catalano
Presiding Judge
Tarrant County Criminal Courts