

Order No. 240



COUNTY OF COMAL §

STATE OF TEXAS §

ORDER OF COMMISSIONERS COURT ESTABLISHING THE “ACCOUNTABILITY COURT” IN COMAL COUNTY

WHEREAS, alcohol abuse continues to be a significant criminal issue affecting the public’s safety across the nation and here in Comal County, Texas;

WHEREAS, research shows that treatment for alcohol abuse can play a pivotal role in breaking the vicious cycle of alcohol abuse and criminal behavior particularly during the vulnerable period right after arrest;

WHEREAS, U.S. Senator Robert Casey Jr., as keynote speaker for Treatment Courts has stated that “[g]overnment can be a force for good in the world, and treatment that falls within that arena- that’s what makes treatment valuable.” Furthermore, “treatment takes rough and rigid accountability, as well as individual and community responsibility.”

WHEREAS, D.W.I. Courts have shown successful for all those affected through positive results for the addicts who complete the program, to their families who no longer live with pain, to the community at large in receiving the recovering individuals who are now capable of contributing to society once again, and finally the taxpayers in the money saved by rehabilitating people rather than incarcerating them.

WHEREAS, a treatment court such as the “Accountability Court” is a “problem-solving court that is given the responsibility to handle cases involving drug and alcohol offenders through comprehensive supervision, testing, treatment services and immediate sanctions and incentives.”

WHEREAS, Section 469.005 of the Texas Health and Safety Code authorizes a commissioners court of a county to establish a court exclusively for persons arrested for, charged with, or convicted of an offense involving the operation of a motor vehicle while intoxicated.

WHEREAS, the staff of the County Court at Law II along with the Criminal District Attorney's Office, the Comal County Adult Community Supervision and Corrections Department, the Local Defense Attorney, and the Comal County Sheriff's Office has in accordance with state and federal laws, standards and criteria, designed a D.W.I. Court Program for Comal County, to be known as the "Accountability Court."

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commissioners Court of Comal County, for all purposes intended by Chapter 469 of the Texas Health and Safety Code as well as any other applicable law, hereby duly approves the creation and establishment of a D.W.I. Court of Comal County, to be known as the "Accountability Court."

This Order shall be in full force and effect on the date this Order is recorded and approved.

AND APPROVED THIS DATE _____ OF October, 2009.

DANNY SCHEEL
County Judge

DONNA ECCLESTON
Commissioner Precinct 1

JAY MILLIKIN
Commissioner Precinct 2

GREGORY PARKER
Commissioner Precinct 3

JAN KENNADY
Commissioner Precinct 4

Attest: _____
Joy Streater, County Clerk