



# COMMISSIONERS COURT COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

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DATE: 09/17/2024

**SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
TARRANT COUNTY AND TEXAS A&M SCHOOL OF LAW FOR  
BASIC MEDIATION TRAINING SERVICES**

**\*\*\* CONSENT AGENDA \*\*\***

**COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED**

It is requested that the Commissioners Court consider an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between Tarrant County and Texas A&M School of Law for Basic Mediation Training Services.

**BACKGROUND**

Chapter 152 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code, allows counties to operate an alternative dispute resolution system (ADRS). ADRS is defined in section 152.001 as “an informal forum in which mediation, conciliation, or arbitration is used to resolve disputes among individuals, entities, and units of government, including those having an ongoing relationship such as relatives, neighbors, landlords and tenants, employees and employers, and merchants and consumers.”

Tarrant County’s Dispute Resolution model is dependent on independent mediators to provide high-quality mediation services for Tarrant County residents.

On October 18, 2022 the Commissioners Court, through Court Order #139437, approved the original ILA with Texas A&M School of Law for Basic Mediation Training Services to provide forty (40) hours of basic mediation training to twenty-four (24) members of the community and law students at no cost to the trainee.

On May 16, 2023, the Commissioners Court, through Court Order #140872, approved Amendment No. 1 to the ILA, providing an additional training per year for basic mediation services as mentioned above.

With approval, this ILA will supersede the original ILA and will continue to provide mediation services to the community and law students at no cost to the trainee. The term of this ILA is October 1, 2024 with an initial term of one (1) year. The ILA will automatically renew for no more than successive three (3) year periods thereafter, unless either party provides written notice of termination to the other party at least 30 days prior to the end of the then- current term.

This ILA has been approved as to form by the Criminal District Attorney’s Office.

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|---------------|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| SUBMITTED BY: | Dispute Resolution | PREPARED BY:<br>APPROVED BY: | Susan Young<br>Susan Young |
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## **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds are requested in the FY 2025 budget in account 22500-2025 Alternative Dispute Resolution Services (ADRS)/4840100000 Dispute Resolution/569011 Professional Services.