

**REGIONAL PUBLIC DEFENDER
FOR CAPITAL CASES**

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CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

Edward Ray Keith Jr.

DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

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CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

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OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Elaine Nauert

June 17, 2019

The Honorable James Oakley
Burnet County
220 S. Pierce Street
Burnet, TX 78611

Dear Judge Oakley:

I am writing to notify you that Burnet County is eligible to join the Regional Public Defender for Capital Cases (RPDO) program. Open enrollment periods for eligible counties not currently participating in the program occurs every two years. Should your county wish to join, all that is required is to approve the Inter Local Agreement and remit the county's annual participation cost.

The RPDO was founded in 2007 and provides capital case defense team coverage in the event of a death penalty case. Our program, operated by Lubbock County on behalf of the participating counties across Texas, ensures that constitutional standards are met in the most difficult cases while mitigating the impact of expensive litigation on county budgets.

SOME GOOD NEWS! Annual participation costs for most counties have been *reduced*, thanks to the Texas Legislature's increased investment in indigent defense in the FY2020 and FY2021 budget years. The Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) will now fund two-thirds of the cost of the program. Your county's allocation for each year of this biennium is \$ 10,133.00.

Please note that if you choose to join our program, the agreement will take effect on October 1, 2019, and any capital murder that occurs after that date will be covered by our office so long as the signed Inter Local Agreement and payment have been received by RPDO and there is no conflict. This open enrollment period will end upon the close of business on December 31, 2019. Inter Local Agreements will be sent out in July 2019 for your court's consideration and approval.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or to learn more about our program. I am generally available to appear at Commissioner Court meetings to explain the program and answer questions. If you would like to schedule a presentation, just give us a call and we will work out a date with you.

Sincerely,

Angleton	Austin	San Antonio	Lubbock	Midland	Terrell	Wichita Falls
(979)266-7613	(512)756-4621	(210)886-8789	(806)775-1522	(432)688-4366	(972)551-0100	(940)264-6169

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'E. Keith, Jr.', with a stylized, cursive script.

Edward Ray Keith, Jr.

CC: Karin Smith