

Article IV. RESERVE COMMISSIONS / INTERNSHIPS

The Texas Legislature's House Bill 480 authorizes District Attorneys to appoint reserve investigators, effective September 1, 2015. The bill states that the County Commissioners can authorize a certain number of reserve investigators for each office. Any reserve investigators authorized for utilization by the District Attorney will fall under the direct supervision of the Chief Investigator of the District Attorney's Office.

The District Attorney Police Internship Program is specifically designed for college level interns seeking to fulfill an academic internship requirement. The intern will gain knowledge of the Texas Criminal Justice System and the operational relationships between various departments within the system.

Section 4.01 Reserve Investigators

(a) Restrictions –

- (1) Reserve investigators would be required to furnish their own transportation and shall be restricted from operating county vehicles. (THIS MAY CHANGE IF COUNTY APPROVES RESERVES TO DRIVE OUR VEHICLES)
- (2) Reserve investigators would not be paid monetarily, nor would they receive any other county benefit.
- (3) Reserve investigators would be required to carry a county identification card noting that they are a 'Reserve Investigator'; however, reserve investigators shall not have key or card access to any county facility.
- (4) Reserve investigators would be independently and financially responsible for maintaining all required peace officer training as per TCOLE, including all firearms proficiency training, and any bonding fees associated with the position.

(b) Supervision – Reserve investigators fall under the supervision of the Chief Investigator of the District Attorney's Office. Reserve investigators shall follow all county policies and the guidelines documented in this policy manual while performing any official duty for the District Attorney.

(c) Structure – Reserve investigators may choose to work anytime during regular business hours or may be called upon by the District Attorney as needed for any special assignment. The reserve investigator will perform tasks assigned by an investigator or an Assistant District Attorney and collaborate with those employees about the task until its completion.

Section 4.02 Internships

(a) Restrictions –

- (1) Interns shall be restricted from operating county vehicles.

- (2) Interns shall be restricted from handling firearms, except, the intern may be permitted to fire a weapon at a firing range at the direction of the District Attorney's Firearms Instructor.
- (3) Interns shall be restricted from entrance into the District Attorney's Evidence Room and participating in any activity that will place the intern in the chain of custody for items of evidence.

(b) Supervision – Interns will be directly supervised by the investigator he/she is assisting, and any work performed will be reviewed and approved by the supervising investigator. Interns will be assisting multiple investigators, therefore, their supervising investigator could change on a daily basis.

(a) Structure – Interns will be assigned to a specific court and assist the investigators for that court with their daily tasks. The duration and work schedule of the intern's assignment will be based on their University's requirements and the intern's availability.