

Misdemeanor Wheel Qualifications

➤ **Residency Requirements**

To be eligible to receive appointments in misdemeanor cases, an attorney must:

- Be a resident of Collin County, maintain a principal office in Collin County, or have at least 80 percent of the attorney's practice in Collin County. An attorney may be a resident of Collin County, maintain a principal office in Collin County, or have at least 80 percent of the attorney's practice in Collin County.
- Anyone not meeting the above-listed criteria may petition the County Courts for an exception by contacting the indigent defense coordinator. An exception may be granted upon the approval of a majority plus one of the Committee.

➤ **Competency Requirements and Standards**

To be on the list of approved attorneys for misdemeanor appointments, an attorney must meet the Residency Requirements above and one of the following criteria:

- Board Certification in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization; OR
- Completion of at least two years of law practice with at least three misdemeanor jury trials (which may be second chair) during the attorney's career and completion of at least sixteen hours of criminal law continuing legal education in the twenty-four-month period preceding application; OR
- Demonstrate competence using other criteria to be approved by the Committee including, but not limited to, years of legal experience, board certification in areas of law other than criminal law, number of civil and jury trials completed, number of hours of criminal law CLE and professional reputation for handling criminal cases.
- The attorney will not accept court appointments in another county.
- In addition to the above-referenced eligibility requirements, additional requirements for designation on the approved attorney list for the MHMC include:
 - Six hours per year of CLE in Mental Health;
 - Six jury trials as lead counsel.