

Requirements for Receiving Misdemeanor Court Appointments

To be eligible for receiving court appointments on misdemeanor cases, an attorney must meet the following requirements at the time of application:

- A. Maintain membership in a Collin County Bar organization
- B. Reside in and maintain his sole office in Collin County
 - 1. An attorney who does not meet the above residency requirement may submit a letter requesting special exception which may be granted upon unanimous approval of the County Court at Law Judges
- C. The attorney will not accept appointments in another county.
- D. Meet one of the following criteria:
 - 1. Board Certification in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization; or
 - 2. 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 continuing legal education in the twenty-four month period preceding application; or
 - 3. 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 cases.
- E. In addition to the above-referenced eligibility requirements, additional requirements for designation on the approved attorney list for MHMC include:
 - 1. Six hours per year of CLE in Mental Health
 - 2. Six jury trials as lead counsel

Should you have questions, please contact:

Tracye Sparks
Indigent Defense Coordinator
2100 Bloomdale Road, Suite 20209
McKinney, TX 75071
972-548-4617
tsparks@co.collin.tx.us