

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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December 13, 2019

RE: Executive Order 8 – Conviction Reporting

On September 5, 2019, Governor Abbott issued eight executive orders to help prevent mass shootings by increasing law enforcement's ability to respond to suspicious activity. Order No. 8 stated:

“Beginning January 1, 2020, all future grant awards from the Office of the Governor to counties shall require a commitment that the county will report at least 90 percent of convictions within seven business days to the Criminal Justice Information system at the Department of Public Safety. By January 1, 2021, such reporting must take place within five business days.”

DPS has historically recognized a combined statutory interpretation of 60 days for disposition reporting – 30 days for a conviction to be final and 30 days to report final dispositions. DPS confirmed that the order refers to reducing the submission timeframe of the second 30-day period. Effectively, the order requires counties to submit final dispositions within 37 days in year 2020 and within 35 days in year 2021 and beyond.

The department stands ready to assist counties in meeting these new timeframes.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Skylor Hearn'.

Skylor Hearn,
Deputy Director