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Texas' First Pretrial Association is Launched

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Hello everyone! The purpose of this newsletter is to first make you aware of our existence and to introduce ourselves. We represent the **Texas Association of Pretrial Services (TAPS)**. We are a newly established, non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of pretrial services within the State of Texas. TAPS was established on January 14, 2014, during a conference attended by nearly two hundred pretrial professionals from all over Texas. Our conference was also attended and supported by then President of the National Association of Pretrial Services (NAPSA), Cherise Burdeen.

We formed TAPS to provide a platform that will support and

advocate for pretrial release and diversion practices which are consistent with the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Texas. TAPS has already created and approved by-laws and elected officers to their Board of Directors.

TAPS wants to open and maintain a systematic and efficient line of communication with all pretrial services professionals throughout Texas. This venue will provide an opportunity to share thoughts, ideas, data and best practices. In this manner we can enhance and bring professional uniformity to pretrial services across the state. TAPS was established to address issues that directly

affect the delivery and expansion of pretrial release services and pretrial justice in Texas.

The Association will provide training and educational opportunities for pretrial practitioners and other criminal justice professionals. Anyone involved with pretrial, whether working in stand-alone offices or as CSCD Officers assigned pretrial duties, can benefit from working in collaboration with the Association. We hope this, our inaugural newsletter, will be informative and peak your interest enough to want to know more. Feel free to contact us. We have much to offer.

Special points of interest:

- NIC Virtual Conference—pg4
- Training Opportunities—pg6
- 2nd Annual TAPS Conference for 2015—pg7
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A Word From The National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies (NAPSA)

Peter Kiers is the Director of Operations for the New York City Criminal Justice Agency, the pretrial agency for the five boroughs of New York City. Mr. Kiers served two terms as president for the National Association of Pretrial Services (NAPSA); and served on their Board of Directors for more than a decade. Additionally, he is currently the Chairman of the NAPSA Education Committee.

The following is a message of congratulations from Mr. Kiers to the Texas Association of Pretrial Services on behalf of NAPSA.

TAPS,

My deepest congratulations to the pretrial professionals of Texas for forming a state pretrial association. I know the herculean effort that was expended in forming the association and the obstacles that you had to overcome.

My thanks to all those who worked so hard to create and promote it. The Texas Association of Pretrial Services will now provide a venue for communication and support, in the pretrial field in particular and the criminal justice system as a whole, to promote professional pretrial services and standards in Texas.

Good job!

*Peter Kiers
Past President, NAPSA*

Meet Your TAPS Board of Directors



"He was acknowledged by the Texas Corrections Association as the "Outstanding Adult Corrections Administrator" for 2008.

"I've spent my career in criminal justice and want to ensure the next generation of professionals comes in armed with as much knowledge and ability as we can provide. It's a great way to pass the torch to future criminal justice practitioners."

Mike Lozito

President



Mike Lozito is the Director of Judicial Services. Mr. Lozito's father was a retired Army Officer and settled in

the El Paso area, his dad later became the Chief Probation Officer in El Paso County. This led to Mr. Lozito's passion for Criminal Justice; he graduated from St. Edward's University in Austin with BA in Criminal Justice.

His previous employment includes over 30 years Criminal Justice experience; as a Pretrial Technician, Youth Services Officer, Parole Officer, Parole Supervisor, Section Director and Regional Director. A large portion of his career was with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Mr. Lozito has also worked in the private sector as an Account Executive and Business Development Manager. He is known for his expertise in Day Reporting Centers, Sex Offender Programming and Electronic Monitoring Technologies. He was acknowledged by the Texas Corrections Association as the "Outstanding Adult Corrections Administrator" for 2008.

Mr. Lozito began his career with Bexar County in June 2010, as the Judicial Support Services Manager responsible for the Pretrial Services Office and Indigent Defense Attorney Appointments. In August of 2011, he was named as the interim Director of Judicial Support Services and was appointed as the Director of Judicial Services in November 2011. He is responsible for administering the activities of the Pretrial Services Office, Jail Population Impact Control Unit, Medical Examiner's Office, Crime Investigation Laboratory, Court Collections, Problem Solving Courts Programs, Reentry Services, and the Dispute Resolution Center.

Gerald Rodriguez, Jr.

Vice President



Gerald Rodriguez, Jr. is a lifelong resident of the state of Texas. He is a manager for Travis County

Pretrial Services in Austin, Texas. He started his public service with the City of Austin Municipal Court in 1984, and transitioned into pretrial services in 1991 as a Personal Bond Officer with the Travis County Pretrial Services. He has been a Pretrial Manager since 2001. He participated as Chairman of the "Pretrial Services Message Committee", which was formed in conjunction with other committees, with the goal of establishing a state-wide association for pretrial services in Texas. He collaborated with other Texas pretrial professionals to organize the First Annual Texas Association of Pretrial Services (TAPS) Conference and Training Institute in 2014. He is currently Vice President of the Texas Association of Pretrial Services.

William A. Longoria

Southeast Region Representative



William Longoria or "Will" as he is known to staff and friends, is currently Program Manager for the Bexar

County Pretrial Services Office. He has nearly 28 years of service with Pretrial/Judicial Services and is passionate about furthering the Pretrial cause in Texas. Will has worked every section of Pretrial from Intake to Post Release and has an excellent understanding of all things pretrial. As Pretrial Program Manager, he is responsible for training all new Pretrial Bond Officers. Additionally, Will

formed and put into operation an Internship Program that has already provided one-hundred and forty college students and volunteers the opportunity to gain knowledge and experience in criminal justice. As he puts it, "I've spent my career in criminal justice and want to ensure the next generation of professionals comes in armed with as much knowledge and ability as we can provide. It's a great way to pass the torch to future criminal justice practitioners."

Myra Smith

Northeast Region Representative



Myra Smith is the Northeast Regional Representative for the Texas Association of Pretrial Services

(TAPS). She brings to TAPS a track record of public service and leadership skills, having been in the pretrial justice field for over 30 years, 25 of those years as the Division Manager of the Pretrial Screening Division of Harris County Pretrial Services, Houston, Texas. Her duties include procedural and policy issues, staff training and development and supervision of over 70 staff members. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Hampton University and a Masters in Counseling from Prairie View A & M University.

She has served on various local interagency councils and committees focusing on the needs of defendants with mental disabilities. She has served on committees studying evidence-based practices in pretrial services and the application of risk assessment in choosing pretrial release conditions. She was selected in 2010 to attend the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) event, Orientation for New Pretrial Executives.



Mr. Mickley says it is an honor to be a part of the first ever, Texas Association of Pre-Trial Services.

Cornell J. Mickley

Western Region Representative



Cornell J. Mickley is a 1989 graduate of Southwest Texas State University, now Texas State. He is currently the

Director for Webb County Pre-Trial Services in Laredo, Texas.

Mr. Mickley's employment began in 1989 working for the

Webb County Community Supervision Department as a probation officer. After 10 years he applied and was hired as a United States Probation Officer working in Laredo for the U.S. Southern District of Texas. In 2003, he resigned to operate and manage his family businesses along with his wife, Sharon. After a few years in the private sector an opportunity to return to the field of criminal justice became available and Cornell has held this position since 2006.

Mr. Mickley says it is an honor to be a part of the first ever, Texas Association of Pre-Trial Services. He feels he is fortunate to be working alongside colleagues who bring to the table vast knowledge and wisdom and looks forward to promoting Pre-Trial Service agencies state wide.

We make a living by what we get.
We make a life by what we give.
-Winston Churchill

Linda D. Ingraham

Secretary

Linda D. Ingraham is the Director of Bell County Pretrial Services and Indigent Defense. She has held this position since she joined Bell County 8 years ago. Additionally, Linda helped to establish the Texas Association of Pre-trial Services.

Since being with Bell County Pretrial Department has grown from four employees to twelve employees. Ms. Ingraham has also assisted in designing and implementing a new attorney appointment system which was made possible through a grant from the

Texas Indigent Defense Commission. Currently, eight other Counties are using this system and two more will be joining this year. Linda has also assisted in the design and implementation of the Bell County Mental Health Docket for Civilians and another for Veterans, which was also provided through a grant from the Texas Indigent Defense Commission. Bell County was the first PR Bond Department in the State of Texas.

After Linda joined Bell County she implemented the new

name change from PR Bond Department to the more appropriate Pretrial Services Department while additionally assuming the responsibilities of Director of the Indigent Defense Department. Prior to working for Bell County Ms. Ingraham worked as a paralegal for six years, owned and operated two Bail Bond companies for fifteen years, and previously worked for the City of Belton as the Municipal Court Clerk and Associate Judge.

Bell County was the first PR Bond Department in the State of Texas.

Pretrial Training Opportunities

NAPSA's Education Committee will offer a Level One Pretrial Diversion Certification Test in February 2015 for pretrial diversion practitioners. Please click [here](#) for information about the Pretrial Diversion test. Please forward this message to any of your staff or colleagues who are seeking to be certified.

The National Institute of Corrections (NIC) will schedule its next *Orientation for Pretrial Executives* February 9-13, 2015 in Aurora, Colorado. For more follow the link: <http://nicic.gov/training/15c3001>

SAVE THE DATE!

TAPS 2nd Annual Conference

[See page 7 for more details](#)





NORTHEAST REGION NEWS

By Myra Smith, Northeast Region Representative

By now, many of you may have heard about the Harris County District Attorney's Office's (HCDAO) **First Chance Intervention Program** (Program) that was announced in October 2014 in a press release from the HCDAO. This **pre-charge** Program began as a pilot on October 6, 2014, and will run for approximately six months. Under the program, nonviolent, first-time offenders with no prior criminal history who possess two ounces or less of marijuana (a Class B misdemeanor) are offered a chance to avoid formal charging. Harris County Pretrial Services is providing participant supervision for the HCDAO.

Important points related to the Program:

During the pilot, pre-charge referrals are accepted from the Houston Police Department and the Harris County Sheriff's Office. Persons arrested by other agencies during the pilot period may be offered the opportunity to participate when they appear in court.

Following an interview and risk assessment, and after signing a Program agreement, participants will be assigned to a 60-day Program period with a community service requirement or a 90-day Program period with a cognitive skills class requirement.

- Individuals may elect to opt-out of the Program within 10 days after signing the agreement.
- Individuals who opt-out or fail to satisfactorily complete Program requirements are referred back to the HCDAO for prosecution.
- Pre-charge participants who satisfactorily complete the Program have resulting criminal record; post-charge participants who satisfactorily complete the Program receive dismissal and may pursue expunction.

For more information, go to <http://app.dao.hctx.net/> (news releases). This new program represents an opportunity for Pretrial Services to step out of the routine and demonstrate our ability to do more than fulfill our traditional role for the courts.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE NEWS

NIC Virtual Conference: Call for Presentations

NIC's Academy Division is currently accepting proposals to present workshops for the *NIC Virtual Conference 2015: New Directions in Corrections*. The Conference will go live June 10, 2015 from 9:00 AM MT to 2:00 PM MT. Join your colleagues as we learn together about current trends and issues in corrections, cutting-edge work in corrections, research-informed programs, and thought-provoking inspirational innovations that promote the best in corrections.

Submission Deadline: February 10, 2015. Before you begin, please review the [Call for Presentations](#) in its entirety to ensure that you have the necessary information. Contact Bernie Iszler, NIC Correctional Program Specialist, Academy Division, for more information: biszler@bop.gov Phone: 303-338-6618.



Central Texas Trends in Criminal Justice

By: Gerald Rodriguez, Jr.

One of the critical goals of any Pretrial Services organization is to assure public safety through informed investigations and recommendations to the Court. To that end, I thought it would be helpful to share information about an effort that has been garnering some attention in Travis County and surrounding area.

There has been an organized effort to increase awareness of the unique characteristics of strangulation offenses and the differences between intimate partner strangulation offenses and other offenses of intimate partner violence. Local district attorney's office personnel have been working actively to share information with surrounding criminal justice professionals, victim advocates, and treatment providers regarding the distinctions between strangulation offenses and other intimate partner violence offenses (both in physiological harm

to the victim and potential risks of future lethal danger).

The seriousness of an offense weighs on various decisions regarding a criminal case. Seriousness in cases of violence is most often determined by the injuries to the victim, usually injuries that are visible and that can be easily documented. Most cases of strangulation do not leave obvious visible injuries, however the damage may be more severe and persistent. Strangulation is not all about "breathing" but about "blood flow". Damage to the brain and organs occur if blood and oxygen to the brain is impeded or if blood flow out of the brain is impeded. Being aware of injuries caused by strangulation can help make more informed decisions regarding these cases.

The offense of strangulation is more closely aligned with sexual assault offenses than are other types of intimate partner vio-

lence offenses. In addition, there are strong statistical connections between strangulation and lethality. The risk of future homicide has been shown to increase substantially for individuals who commit the act of strangulation.

Although it is not possible to provide a full training on this topic in a newsletter format, this is an area that is getting a lot of attention recently. It is strongly recommended that criminal justice organizations, who work with strangulation cases, assure that their practitioners are aware of the differences in strangulation cases regarding harm to the victim and risks for future violence and lethality. Organizations should seek out local sources for information. Local law enforcement, prosecutors and victim's advocates are indispensable resources for this type of information and training.

The offense of strangulation is more closely aligned with sexual assault offenses than are other types of intimate partner violence offenses.



Texas Association of Pretrial Services
YOUR Association...



The TAPS Board of Directors would like to know more about you and your organization. Do you have questions, comments or concerns? What would you like to see or know about in our next issue? Provide suggestions or just tell us something we may not know about you, your system and how things are done in your neck of the woods.

Do you or your staff need training? We can help. Do you have operational problems? We can help. Do you have a job announcement you would like to make known across the state? This is the place. Our newsletter reaches far and wide to spread the word so you will have more choices and a greater selection of candidates.

The bottom line is we established this association to bring together as many Pretrial and Criminal Justice Agencies and professionals as possible so that we can create a line of communication and share information about the jobs we do in Texas. We want to bring consistency to our profession and work in collaboration with one another. Pretrial Offices are important to Texas because when they are well organized and duly managed, they allow criminal justice systems to run efficiently, effectively and above all, impartially. Why should you join TAPS? The answer is simple enough: We want to bring strength and equitability to Pretrial Offices across Texas because what makes any one of us strong makes all of us stronger. We are the **Texas Association of Pretrial Services (TAPS)** and we're here to help you! Send your questions or comments to: wlongoria@bexar.org



1st Annual Taps Conference—2014

“It’s a learning opportunity for criminal justice professionals around Texas to share their experience and knowledge with each other.” *Dr. Norma Greenfield-Laborde*

Last year, the first ever Texas Association of Pretrial Services Conference was a tremendous success. Not only was a much needed association created but valuable information was exchanged, professional relationships were forged, new contacts made and old friendships renewed. Additionally, Pretrial Offices across Texas were strengthened with added credibility.

Dr. Norma Greenfield-Laborde is the Chief of Pretrial Services in Bexar County and is a voting member who fully supports TAPS. She attended the first annual conference. *“It’s a learning opportunity for criminal justice professionals around Texas to share their experience and knowledge with each other.”*

As stated and restated in previous pages, communication was the key to unlocking the core of Pretrial Services Offices across our Great State of Texas. What we found was genuine commitment and dedication to our communities at the epicenter. We care about our obligation and it shows today. We want to make our communities a place where the ill and troubled are not cast aside but assisted and healed so that they too can contribute to the restoration and improvement of the places we call home.

So please come to your conference and be a part of the renovation and transformation of Texas criminal justice. We look forward to seeing you all there.



TAPS President Mike Lozito addresses the audience.



The first TAPS Conference had a great turnout.



Bexar County Pretrial Services On the Cutting Edge By: Will Longoria

At Bexar County Pretrial Services in San Antonio the emphasis has been on training. Gone are the days when “on the job training” was the primary means of introducing employees to new methods or processes. The criminal justice field has changed significantly over the past ten years with the advent of legal and evidence based practices (LEBP). Most Pretrial management and senior members have tested and been Certified as Pretrial Professionals through NAPSA. The department vision is to eventually have all Pretrial officers certified by NAPSA and recognized as Pretrial Professionals.

With that in mind, Judicial Services Director, Mike Lozito and Deputy Director (also Pretrial Chief) Dr. Norma Greenfield-Laborde have recently implemented an on-going training program

for all Pretrial Bond Officers which not only covers LEBP but a myriad of other Pretrial related topics. The class, which was created and is instructed by Pretrial Program Manager Will Longoria, takes 3 ½ days to complete and covers everything from Pretrial History to National Association of Pretrial Services (NAPSA) Standards and LEBPs to Ethics in Criminal Justice. During the class, students get an opportunity to interact, provide feedback, share viewpoints and ideas which all serve to improve operations and develop cohesion and promote solidarity within the organization.

The training clearly defines Pretrial Management’s expectations of its officers while providing a comprehensive overview of all department functions. The purpose of this course is to empower team members with the ability to work

in almost any area of Pretrial thus increasing overall performance and effectiveness to the department. Much like cross-training athletes in professional sports, the more flexible a team member is, the more valuable they become to the team. Finally, Pretrial staff regularly shares training seminars with the Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD) personnel. Whether inviting probation staff to Motivational Interviewing training provided by MINT certified trainers or attending seminars hosted by CSCD about officer safety, Bexar County continues to concentrate on and promote training as a cooperative effort within the criminal justice system and its various entities.

Much like cross-training athletes in professional sports, the more flexible a team member is, the more valuable they become to the team.



SAVE THE DATE!

******TAPS 2nd Annual Conference******

When: Thursday and Friday, April 16th & 17th, 2015

Where: The Woodlands (north of Houston—I45 & Hardy Toll Road)

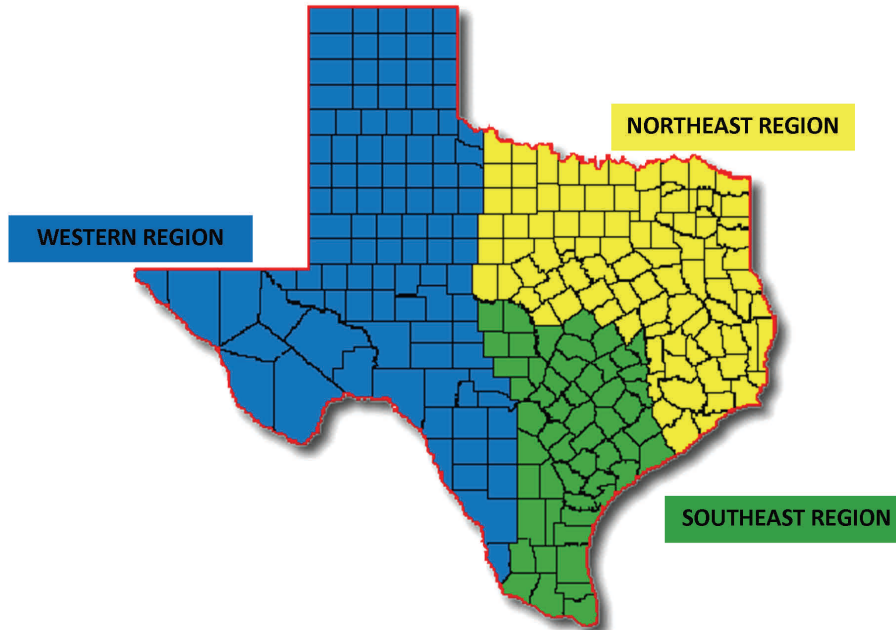


Thursday, April 16, 2015
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Friday, April 17, 2015
9:00 a.m. to Noon

WATCH YOUR EMAIL ... DETAILS COMING SOON!



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF PRETRIAL SERVICES REGIONS



Western Region

Andrews	Gray	Nolan
Armstrong	Hale	Ochiltree
Bailey	Hall	Oldham
Bandera	Hansford	Parmer
Borden	Hardeman	Pecos
Brewster	Hartley	Potter
Briscoe	Haskell	Presidio
Carson	Hemphill	Randall
Castro	Hockley	Reagan
Childress	Howard	Real
Cochran	Hudspeth	Reeves
Coke	Hutchinson	Roberts
Collingsworth	Irion	Runnels
Concho	Jeff Davis	Schleicher
Cottle	Jones	Scurry
Crane	Kent	Sherman
Crockett	Kerr	Sterling
Crosby	Kimble	Stonewall
Culberson	King	Sutton
Dallam	Kinney	Swisher
Dawson	Knox	Taylor
Deaf Smith	Lamb	Terrell
Dickens	LaSalle	Terry
Dimmit	Lipscomb	Tom Green
Donley	Loving	Upton
Ector	Lubbock	Uvalde
Edwards	Lynn	Val Verde
El Paso	Martin	Ward
Fisher	Maverick	Webb
Floyd	Medina	Wheeler
Foard	Menard	Winkler
Frio	Midland	Yoakum
Gaines	Mitchell	Zapata
Garza	Moore	Zavala
Glasscock	Motley	

Northeast Region

Anderson	Hall	Polk
Angelina	Hamilton	Rains
Archer	Hardin	Red River
Baylor	Harris	Robertson
Bosque	Harrison	Rockwall
Bowie	Henderson	Rusk
Brazoria	Hill	Sabine
Brown	Hood	San Augustine
Callahan	Hopkins	San Jacinto
Camp	Houston	Shackelford
Cass	Hunt	Shelby
Chambers	Jack	Smith
Cherokee	Jasper	Somervell
Clay	Jefferson	Stephens
Coleman	Johnson	Tarrant
Collin	Kaufman	Throckmorton
Comal	Lamar	Titus
Comanche	Lampasas	Trinity
Cooke	Leon	Tyler
Coryell	Liberty	Upshur
Dallas	Limestone	Van Zandt
Delta	Madison	Walker
Denton	Marion	Waller
Eastland	McLennan	Wichita
Ellis	Mills	Wilbarger
Erath	Montague	Wise
Falls	Montgomery	Wood
Fannin	Morris	Young
Fort Bend	Nacogdoches	
Franklin	Navarro	
Freestone	Newton	
Grayson	Orange	
Gregg	Palo Pinto	
Grimes	Panola	
	Parker	

Southeast Region

Aransas	Llano
Atascosa	Mason
Austin	Matagorda
Bastrop	McCulloch
Bee	McMullen
Bell	Milam
Bexar	Nueces
Blanco	Refugio
Brazos	San Patricio
Brooks	San Saba
Burleson	Starr
Caldwell	Travis
Calhoun	Victoria
Cameron	Washington
Colorado	Wharton
Comal	Willacy
Dewitt	Williamson
Duval	Wilson
Jim Hogg	
Fayette	
Gillespie	
Goliad	
Gonzales	
Guadalupe	
Hays	
Hidalgo	
Jackson	
Jim Wells	
Karnes	
Kendall	
Kenedy	
Kleberg	
Lavaca	
Lee	
Live Oak	



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF PRETRIAL SERVICES

TAPS Annual Membership Form

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

NAME:		TITLE:	
*** <i>(If organizational – list name of other voting members)</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Level I - 1 voting member</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Level II – 2 voting members</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Level III – 3 voting members</i>			
NAME:		TITLE:	
NAME:		TITLE:	
AGENCY:			
AGENCY ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE & ZIP:	
PHONE:		FAX:	
EMAIL:			

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

- \$ 35 **Professional** *(An individual employed in the field of Pretrial Services)*
- \$ 25 **Associate** *(An individual not employed in the field of Pretrial Services who subscribes to the purposes and goals of the Association)*
- \$ 25 **Student** *(Full-time Students of criminal justice, law or other related discipline)*
- \$200 **Organizational – Level I** *(A Pretrial Services Agency with 1 – 25 Employees)*
- \$250 **Organizational – Level II** *(A Pretrial Services Agency with 26 – 50 Employees)*
- \$300 **Organizational – Level III** *(A Pretrial Services Agency with over 50 Employees)*
- \$500 **Corporate** *(Person, Association or Business that supports and/or subscribes to the purposes and goals of the Association)*

Make checks payable to: Texas Association of Pretrial Services

Submit this form along with payment to:

Texas Association of Pretrial Services

P. O. Box 685153

Austin, TX 78768-5153