

MEADOWS  
MENTAL HEALTH  
POLICY INSTITUTE

---

**Understanding FTA Numbers and Relation to Bond Forfeitures**

In-Person Galveston County Coordinating Council, Meeting 100, October 26, 2023 - FINAL

---

# Executive Summary of this Research

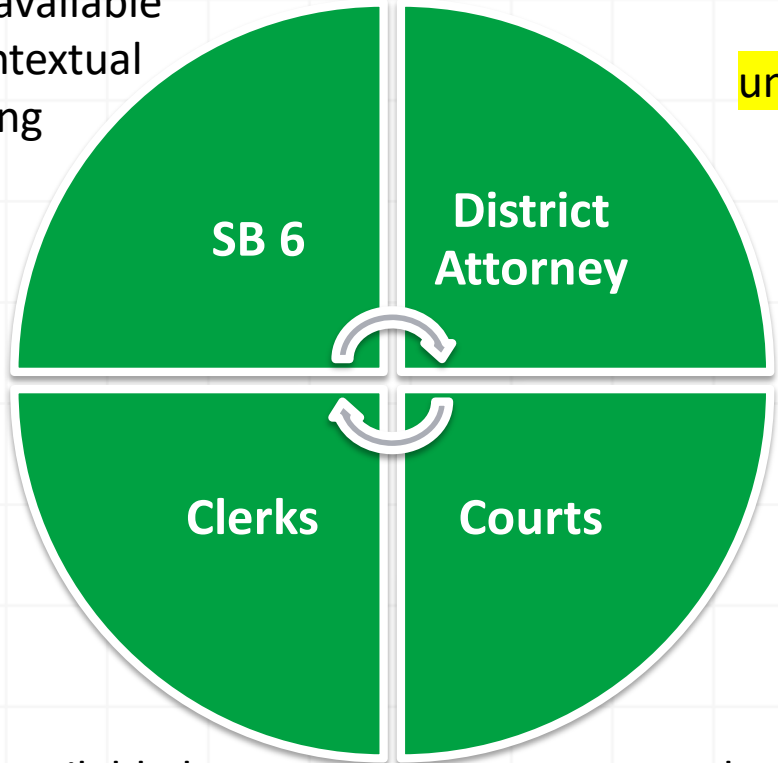
---

- In relation to the number of pending court cases, Failure-to-Appear rates are low, at about 2% of pending court cases
- When adjusted for data that is not routinely reported related to the ability to surrender surety bonds before their failures, the “failure” rate for defendants on surety bonds is higher than those on personal bond
- State law makes it very difficult to forfeit surety bonds with many legal provisions making exceptions to forfeitures, the more impactful one stating that defendants rearrested within 270 days subsequent to the date of their failures to appear in court are exonerated of their bond liabilities
- Galveston County recovers about 4% of the bond liabilities for cases violating their agreement with the courts, and great part of the costs recovered are only for court fees and interest.
- Short of changing state law, there are very few recommendations for localities to improve their surety bond collection rate.

# Complex Layers to Figure Out FTAs in Relation to Bond Forfeitures

New reports on total bond amounts, FTAs and liability available but lack contextual meaning

Law makes it hard to forfeit a surety bond but data analysis to understand scope have never been done



Reports are available but analytical triangulation across agencies required

Records are available but data are hard to extract and analyze cohesively

Brainstorming Workshop Today  
Discussion and Potential Recommendations Next CC Meeting  
November 3, 2023

# Study Period and Sources of Data

**Study Period**



**SB 6 OCA FTA Report First Reporting Period  
April 2022 to March 2023**

**District and  
County Clerk  
SB 6 Report to  
OCA**



**Sources of Data  
for Analysis**



**Analysis of Case Data  
from Odyssey Conducted  
with the Assistance of IT**

**Data Collected by  
Personal Bond Office**

**Reports from Sheriff  
Office**

**Data Collected by  
GCOMMHPD for Mental  
Health Docket**

**General OCA Data**

# Context: Goal is to Make Hybrid Pretrial System Work Better



“Privately funded” pretrial release mainly financed by defendants paying their bond fee

Provide appointment follow ups

In theory the surety is monetary “skin in the game” that some believe provide incentives to appear in court

Galveston County PBO



“Publicly funded” pretrial release for eligible defendants that cannot pay surety bond to get out of jail or for special needs population, like the mentally ill

Provide appointment follow ups and get community assistance for services (soon with hiring of new officers and later with re-entry initiative in long-term plan)

In theory “skin in the game” is losing “free-out of-jail card” without surety

## Context: SB 6 Requires More Than Old Bond Schedule

*“For years in Galveston County, magistrates throughout the county would set bonds at the recommendation of the DA’s office, or amount listed in the affidavit by law enforcement without a formal hearing to determine bail. Those individuals were able to bond out as soon as they were being booked into the county jail. But, now everyone must wait to appear before magistrate court.”\**

*“What is now required is that we consider CCP 17.15 along with, financial affidavit, criminal history, public safety report, static risk assessment, and hearing the arguments of counsel when setting the bond.”\**

*“It takes careful consideration by the magistrate, after reviewing everything, whether to release the individual from custody on pretrial release.”\**

**What is the relation between bond amount and the chances that a defendant will show up in court and don’t violate conditions of release?**

# Context: Texas Law Makes it Hard to Get a Surety Bond Forfeiture

## **BOND FORFEITURE PROCEDURES IN TEXAS (ABBREVIATED)**

(FOR PRESENTATION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL)

1. Bond forfeiture process begins at failure to appear but does not end until two years after entry of final judgment.
2. Court enters “judgment nisi” in favor of the State for the bond amount. A judgment nisi is a temporary order which will become final unless the defendant in the criminal case and/or the surety show good cause why the judgment should be set aside.
3. Court enters a capias for the defendant’s arrest and sets a new bond.
4. The bond forfeiture case is assigned to a separate docket. The defendant and surety are served with citation and have the opportunity to answer the forfeiture suit.
5. The defendant and surety can raise any of five statutory defenses to avoid liability on the bond, including the defense that the misdemeanor criminal defendant was arrested in the United States within 180 days of his failure to appear or that the felony defendant was arrested within 270 days of his failure to appear. (Code Crim. Proc. art. 22.13). In this event, the surety is obligated to pay only court costs and interest on the bond from the date of judgment nisi.
6. The surety may also avoid liability for the bond amount for the following reason: after a forfeiture and before final judgment is entered, the court shall remit the bond amount to the surety if the defendant is released on new bail in the case, if the case is dismissed, or in the court’s discretion “for other good cause shown.” (Code Crim. Proc. art. 22.16).
7. After the criminal defendant and surety have filed answers in the bond forfeiture proceeding, the case can proceed to final judgment either by default judgment or by hearing. The court may also approve any proposed settlement by the parties. (Code Crim. Proc. arts. 22.125, 22.14).
8. Furthermore, the surety on the bond has until two years after the entry of a final bond forfeiture judgment to file a special bill of review asking the court to remit the bond amount, in whole or in part, based on equitable grounds. (Code Crim. Proc. art. 22.17).
9. At any point during the bond forfeiture litigation, the court can withdraw the capias issued pursuant to the original judgment nisi.

DA Rody Summary  
of Bond Forfeiture  
Texas Law

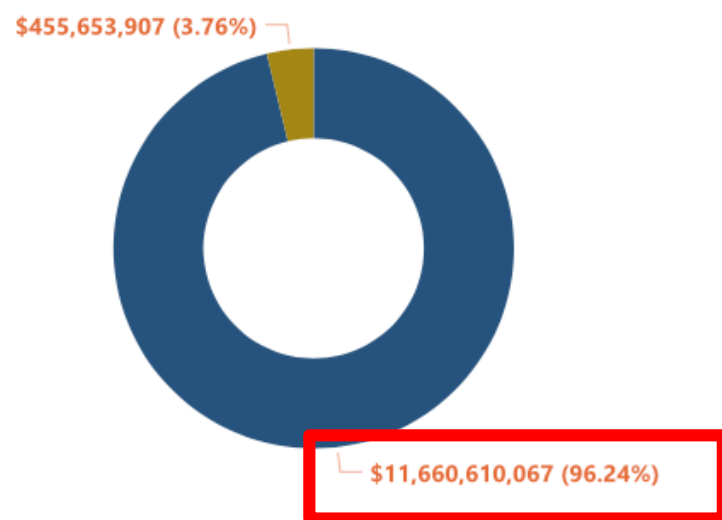
June 17, 2023  
Coordinating  
Council Meeting

# Context: SB 6 Report on Bail Amounts in Texas



**Study Period, April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023\***

## Bail Amounts by Type



## Average Bail Amount



## Market Valuation of Texas Companies in 2023 \*

|                                 |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| American Airlines               | \$10.9 Billion |
| Global Life                     | \$10.7 Billion |
| KBR Software                    | \$8.4 Billion  |
| Phillips 66 Oil                 | \$9.3 Billion  |
| National Instrument Corporation | \$7.8 Billion  |
| Cullen/Frost Bankers            | \$6.8 Billion  |
| Academy Sports and Outdoors     | \$4.4 Billion  |

\*<https://www.value.today/headquarters/texas>

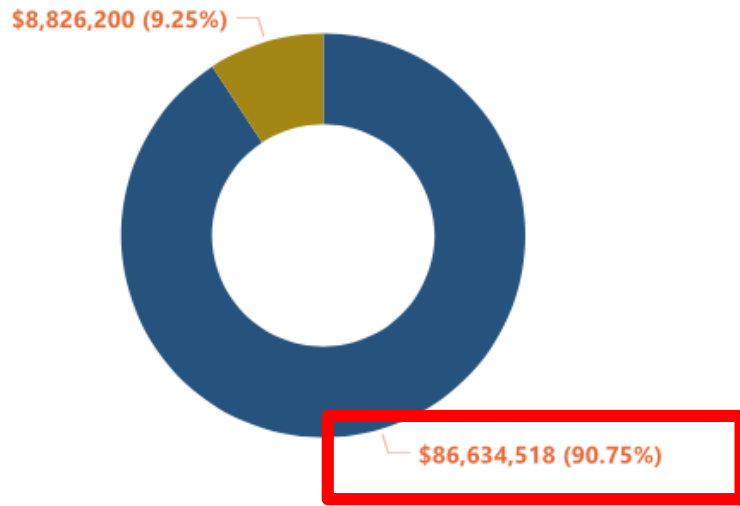


# Context: SB 6 Report on Galveston County Bail Amounts



Study Period, April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023\*

### Bail Amounts by Type



City of Dickinson Operating Budget  
FY 21-22

\$40,252,637\*

### Average Bail Amount



<https://www.ci.dickinson.tx.us/DocumentCenter/View/4485/FY--2023-2024-Proposed-Budget>

# Context: Big Insurance Companies Provide the Surety

## About Bankers Insurance

Bankers Insurance was formed by an association of banks in 1999 – tracing the roots of our founding agencies all the way back to 1896. And though we now rank among the largest privately-owned independent insurance agencies in the country, we remain structured to provide local client support at each of our office.

<https://www.bankersinsurance.net/about/>



**#1 BAIL SURETY IN AMERICA**

The bail agent's resource for bond surety and underwriting expertise.

[Become an Agent](#) [Existing Agent Login](#)

The advertisement is set against a dark blue background with a subtle pattern of stars and constellations. The text is in white and light blue, creating a high-contrast, professional look.

<https://fcsurety.com>


# Context: Surety Industry Transparent About Not Losing Money

## BONDS VS. INSURANCE

### AT A GLANCE

| BONDS   | INSURANCE  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>3 Parties: Principal, Obligee and Surety</b></p> <p>A bond is a three-party agreement whereby the surety guarantees the faithful performance of the principal to the obligee.</p> | <p><b>2 Parties: Insured and Insurance Company</b></p> <p>Insurance is a two-party agreement. The insurance company pays the insured directly for losses incurred.</p> |
| <p><b>Losses Are Not Expected</b></p> <p>The surety takes only risks that are qualified and safe risks.</p>   | <p><b>Losses Are Expected</b></p> <p>Insurance losses are expected; therefore, the rates are adjusted to cover the losses and expenses.</p>                            |

| BONDS   | INSURANCE  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Losses Are Recoverable</b></p> <p>The surety is lending its name, which it wants returned untarnished after the obligation is performed. In case of a claim, the surety expects to be repaid or indemnified by the principal.</p> | <p><b>Losses Are Not Recoverable</b></p> <p>An insurance company doesn't expect to be repaid by the insured.</p>                   |
| <p><b>Sureties - Selective Risk Takers</b></p> <p>Must be selective in the risks they write.</p>  | <p><b>Insurance - Writes Most Risks</b></p> <p>Insurer tries to write most everything, thus letting the volume cover the risk.</p> |


RLISURETY.COM  
© 2020 RLI Corp



**PART 1: EXPLORING THE ISSUE BY ANSWERING FIVE KEY QUESTIONS**

**PART 2: REVIEW OF CASE STUDY**

**PART 3: SUMMARY**

**SIX QUESTIONS FOR BRAINSTORMING DURING NEXT MEETING OF CC NOVEMBER 3, 2023**

# Analysis to Answer Five Questions

**QUESTION 1:** WHAT IS THE **SB 6 OCA FTA REPORT** REQUIRED FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLERKS AND WHAT NUMBERS DID THEY REPORT FOR THE **FIRST YEAR** FOR GALVESTON COUNTY?

**1,347 FTAs**

**QUESTION 2:** WHAT IS THE **FTA PRETRIAL FAILURE** RATE RELATIVE TO THE NUMBER OF PENDING COURT CASES AND RELATIVE TO THE NUMBER OF **PRETRIAL RELEASES ON SURETY AND PERSONAL BOND?**

**On Average 2% of Active Court Cases FTA Monthly**

**Failure Rate for Surety Bond for Study Period: 21.2%**

**Failure Rate for Personal Bond for Study Period: 14.7%**

## Analysis to Answer Five Questions (continued)

**QUESTION 3: WHAT IS THE NUMBER OF FTA CAPIAS WARRANTS ISSUED FOR STUDY PERIOD AND THEIR OUTCOMES AS MEASURED AT THE TIME OF THE STUDY SNAPSHOT IN OCTOBER 2023 (19 MONTH FOLLOW UP PERIOD)?**

**1,338 Capias Warrants**

**17% Capias Warrants Are Recalled**

**36.1% of Cases That Had a Capias Warrants Were Dismissed at Disposition**

## Analysis to Answer Five Questions (continued)

**QUESTION 4: WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE STUDY PERIOD FTA CASES END IN A CIVIL BOND FORFEITURE AND HOW WERE THESE CASES DISPOSED AT THE TIME OF THE STUDY SNAPSHOT IN OCTOBER 2023 (19 MONTH FOLLOW UP PERIOD)?**

**64%** of the FTA Cases Get Civil Bond Forfeiture Filed

**94%** of Felony Bond Forfeiture Cases Ended in Agreed Judgement, Non-Suited or Dismissed or Order to Set Aside and for Misdemeanor Cases it Was **83%**

**QUESTION 5: WHAT IS THE COLLECTION RATE OF FTA BOND FORFEITURES RELATIVE TO OVERALL BOND LIABILITY OF FTA CASES?**

**4%**

# Question One

---

**QUESTION 1: WHAT IS THE SB 6 OCA FTA REPORT REQUIRED FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLERKS AND WHAT NUMBERS DID THEY REPORT FOR THE FIRST YEAR FOR GALVESTON COUNTY?**



# SB 6 Required New Clerk Reporting to the Office of Court Administration (OCA)

Sec. 71.0351. BAIL AND PRETRIAL RELEASE INFORMATION. (a) As a component of the official monthly report submitted to the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System under Section 71.035, the clerk of each court setting bail in criminal cases shall report:

(1) the number of defendants for whom bail was set after arrest, including:

(A) the number for each category of offense;

(B) the number of personal bonds; and

(C) the number of surety or cash bonds;

(2) the number of defendants released on bail who subsequently failed to appear;

(3) the number of defendants released on bail who subsequently violated a condition of release; and

(4) the number of defendants who committed an offense while released on bail or community supervision.

(b) The office shall post the information in a publicly accessible place on the agency's Internet website without disclosing any personal information of any defendant, judge, or magistrate.

(c) Not later than December 1 of each year, the office shall submit a report containing the data collected under this section during the preceding state fiscal year to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and presiding officers of the standing committees of each house of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over the judiciary.

**Reporting from County  
and District Clerk Started  
April 2022**

**First Full Year of Statistics**

**April 2022 to March 2023**

# OCA Mandated the Definitions for the Metrics

**Line 32. CASES IN WHICH DEFENDANT FAILED TO APPEAR**

**FTA = Issuance of Capias Warrant per Case**

**Line 33. CASES IN WHICH DEFENDANT VIOLATED CONDITION OF RELEASE**

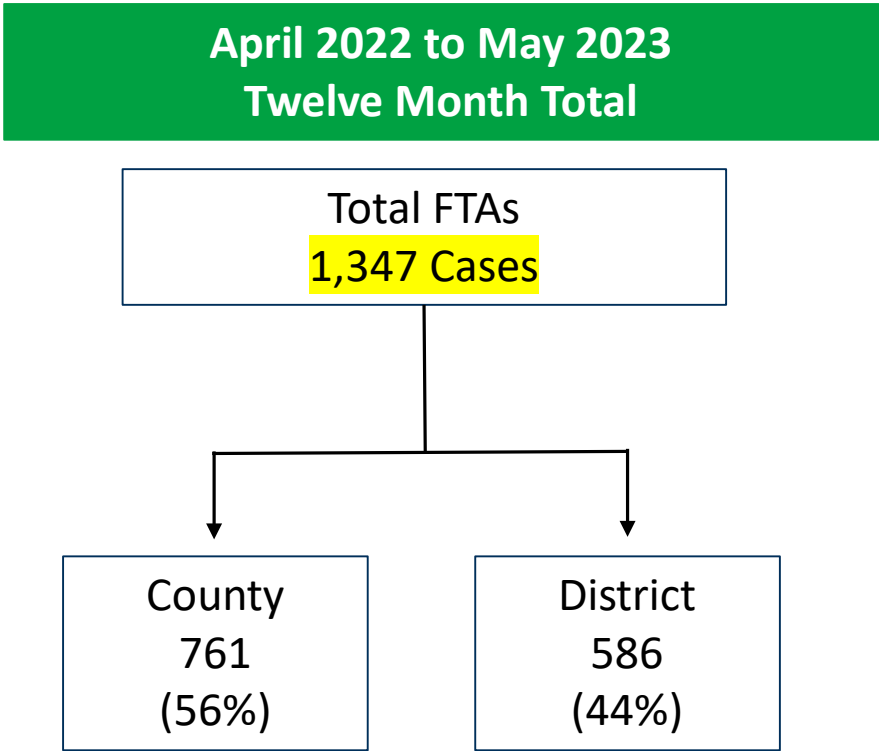
**Warrant of Arrest for Bond Condition Violation Only**  
**related to failure to appear or the commission of a new offense.**

**Line 34. CASES IN WHICH DEFENDANT COMMITTED OFFENSE WHILE ON BAIL OR COMMUNITY SUPERVISION**

**Committed Offense in Community but No Distinction Between Pretrial Release and Probation**

# Number of FTAs Reported for Galveston County

## SB 6 District and County Clerk FTA Reports by County and District Courts



# Number of Bond Violations and Offenses for Galveston County

SB 6 District and County Clerk FTA Reports by County and District Courts

**April 2022 to May 2023  
Twelve Month Total**

**Cases in Which  
Defendant Violated  
Condition of Release**

143

**Defendant Committed Offense While  
on Bail or Community Supervision**

895

# Report to Council of Bond Forfeiture Liability for FTA Cases

SB 6 District and County Clerk FTA Reports Bond Collection Liability from April 2022 to March 2023

April 2022 to May 2023  
Twelve Month Total

Total FTA Cases  
1,347

1,908\*  
Defendants



Bond Forfeiture Liability  
\$14,319,830

Calculation from Official Records of the County and District Clerk of the Original Bond Amount for the FTA Cases Counted Above

\*Average of 1.1 cases per defendant based on this and other Galveston County analyses

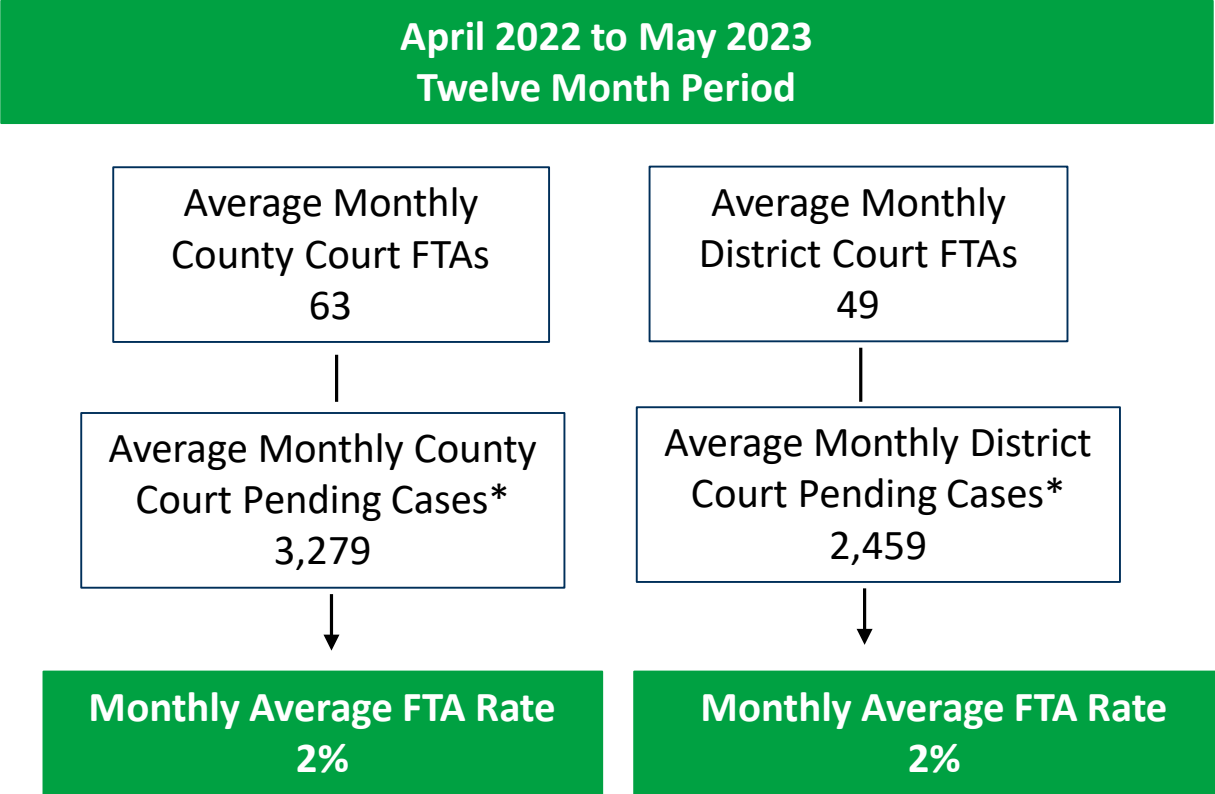
## Question Two

---

**QUESTION 2: WHAT IS THE **FTA PRETRIAL FAILURE** RATE RELATIVE TO THE NUMBER OF PENDING COURT CASES AND RELATIVE TO THE NUMBER OF **PRETRIAL RELEASES ON SURETY AND PERSONAL BOND?****

# FTAs in Relation to the Number of Pending Court Cases

**SB 6 District and County Clerk FTA Reports by County and District Courts, Average Monthly Estimate in Relation to Average Number of Pending Cases as Reported to OCA**

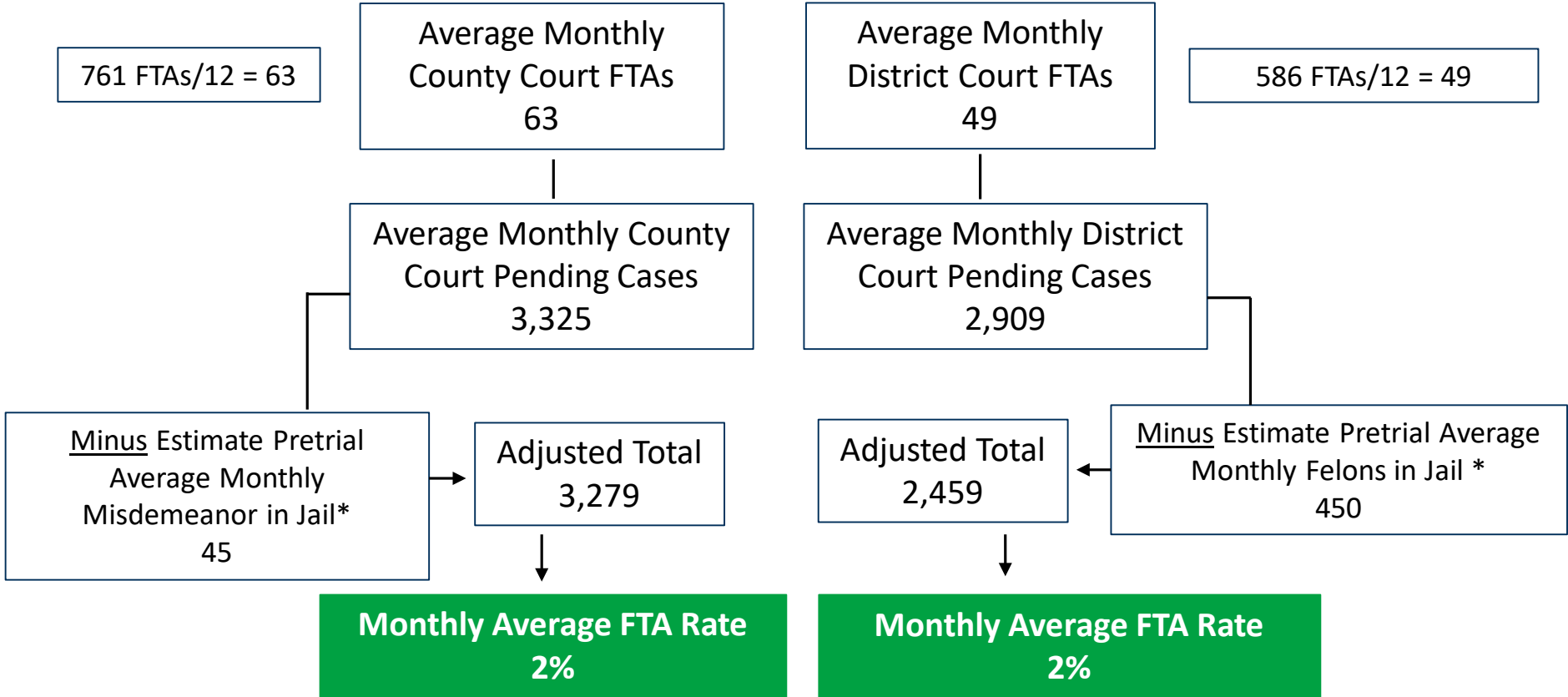


\*Subtracting the average monthly number of defendants with pending cases who are in jail. Estimate using TCJS figure and internal study of June 30, 2023 of pretrial eligible population staying behind in jail

# Math for Calculation

## SB 6 District and County Clerk FTA Reports by County and District Courts, Average Monthly Estimate in Relation to Average Number of Pending Cases as Reported to OCA

**April 2022 to May 2023  
Twelve Month Period**



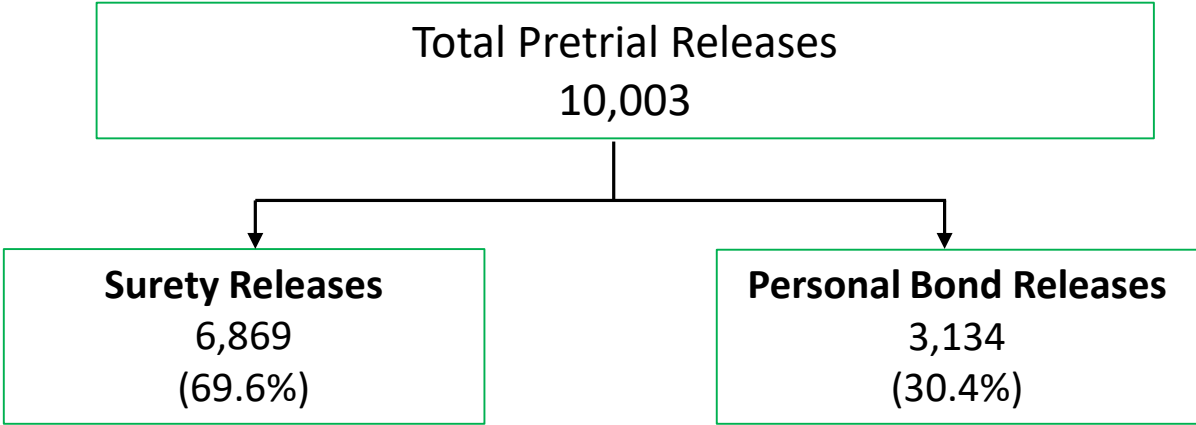
\*Estimate using TCJS figure and internal study of June 30, 2023 of pretrial eligible population staying behind in jail



# Estimate of Total Pretrial Releases on Surety and Personal Bond

Number of Pretrial Releases by Type of Release, April 2022 to March 2023, Based on Techshare Magistration Data

## SB 6 Study Period -April 2022 to March 2023



# Violations of Conditions of Release Relative to Pretrial Population

## SB 6 District and County Clerk FTA Reports Number of Violation of Conditions

**SB 6 Study Period -April 2022 to March 2023**

**Warrant of Arrest for  
Bond Condition  
Violation Only**

Total Pretrial Releases  
10,003



**Cases in Which  
Defendant Violated  
Condition of Release**

143  
(1.4%)

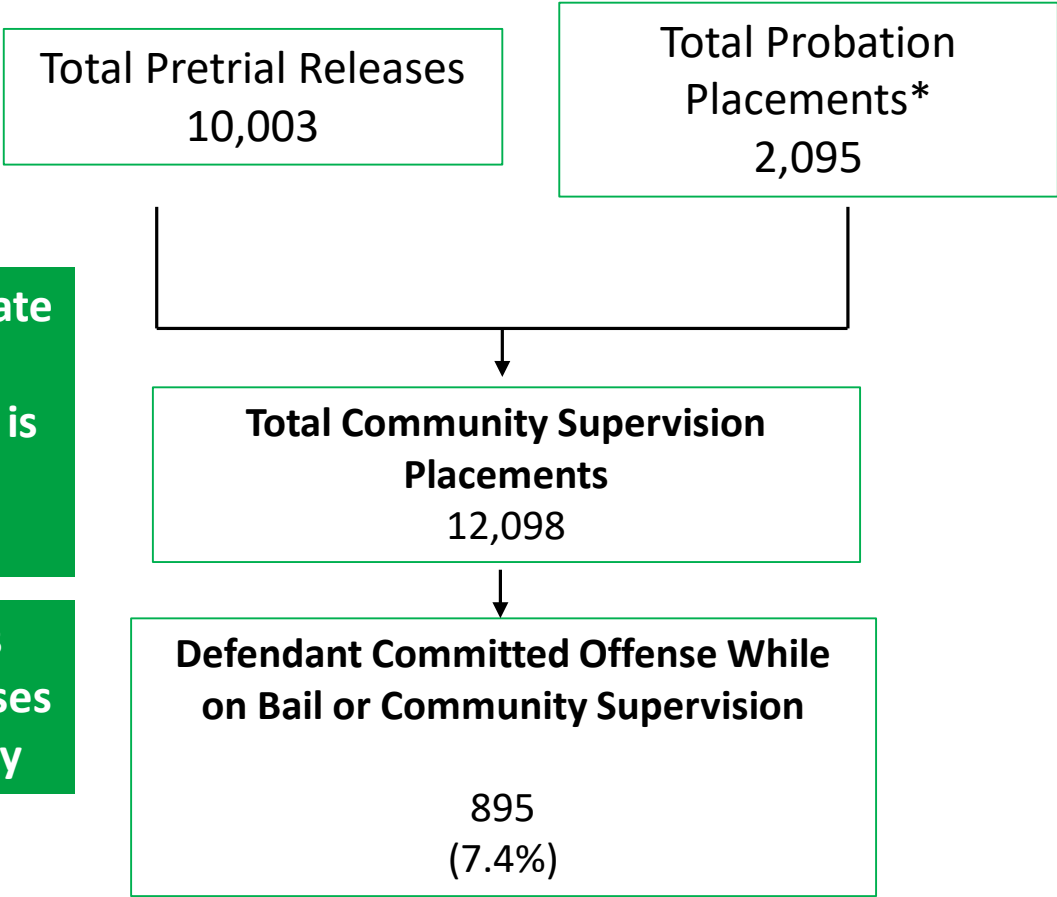
**SB 6 OCA Report by Clerks**

**Side Note**

Lt. Margo Ihde, GCSO, reported on August 4, 2023 to CC 5,456 bond conditions entries in DPS reporting system in first six months of 2023 with only 45 law enforcement calls to verify conditions violations

# Offenses Relative to Pretrial and Probation Placements

**SB 6 Study Period - April 2022 to March 2023**



**Proportional Estimate**  
**83% of Population is Pretrial = 733 Offenses**

**70% of Pretrial is Surety = 513 Offenses for Those in Surety**

\*Email from Willie Lacy, Galveston County Probation Director, August 9, 2023. There were 2,179 felons and 935 misdemeanor cases under probation supervision as of March 21, 2022

# Estimate of FTA Failure Rate Surety vs. Personal Bond Releases

## SB 6 Study Period -April 2022 to March 2023

Total Pretrial Releases  
10,003

**Surety**  
6,869  
(69.6%)

**FTA Warrants**  
808

**Surrenders Before Failures\***  
+ 649

**Adjusted Total Failures**  
1,457

**Failure Rate**  
**21.2%**

**Personal Bond**  
3,134  
(30.4%)

**FTA Warrants**  
463

**Surrender Before Failure**  
0

**Adjusted Total Failures**  
463

**Failure Rate**  
**14.7%**

**No  
Transparent  
Reporting**

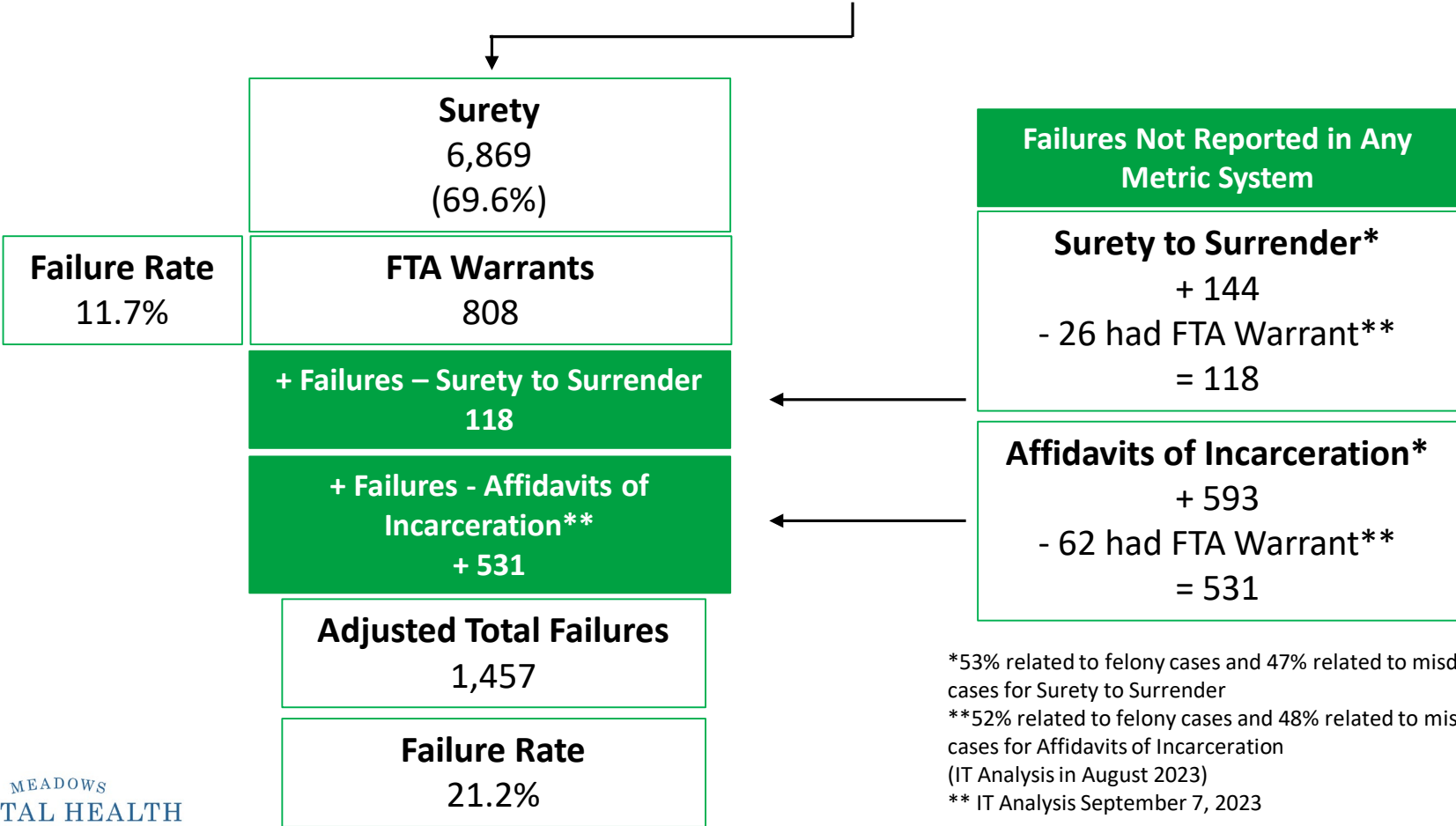


\*Surety to Surrender and Affidavits of Incarceration

# Math for Calculation

## SB 6 Study Period -April 2022 to March 2023

Total Pretrial Releases  
10,003



\*53% related to felony cases and 47% related to misdemeanor cases for Surety to Surrender  
 \*\*52% related to felony cases and 48% related to misdemeanor cases for Affidavits of Incarceration (IT Analysis in August 2023)  
 \*\* IT Analysis September 7, 2023

## Surety to Surrender

“Surety to surrender is bonding company wants to relieve themselves from bond. The defendant is not keeping their end of the bargain up so the bonding company gets off the bond before it becomes a forfeiture. A capias goes out for arrest (bond doubled mostly) and once picked up the defendant either stays in jail or starts over with the same or new bonding company.”\*

## Affidavits of Incarceration

“When a defendant who is released on bond; later becomes incarcerated the bonding company may be absolved of liability on the bond by filing an affidavit of incarceration.”\*\*

*\*Brandi Reyes, District Court Administrator, email of August 7, 2023*

*\*\*Brandi Reyes, District Court Administrator, email of August 18, 2023*

## Question Three

---

**QUESTION 3: WHAT IS THE NUMBER OF **FTA CAPIAS WARRANTS** ISSUED FOR STUDY PERIOD AND **THEIR OUTCOMES** AS MEASURED AT THE TIME OF THE STUDY SNAPSHOT IN OCTOBER 2023 (19 MONTH FOLLOW UP PERIOD)?**

# IT Analytics FTA Capias Arrest Warrants Issued - Outcomes

**FTA Capias Arrest Warrants Issued by Galveston County Courts, April 2022 to March 2023**

1,338 Cases

**Warrant Status at Time of Snapshot October 20, 2023**

**Misdemeanor Cases**  
758  
(56.7%)

Executed  
506 (67%)

Open/Active  
128 (17%)

Recalled  
124 (16%)

**Felony Cases\***  
578  
(43.2%)

Executed  
416 (72%)

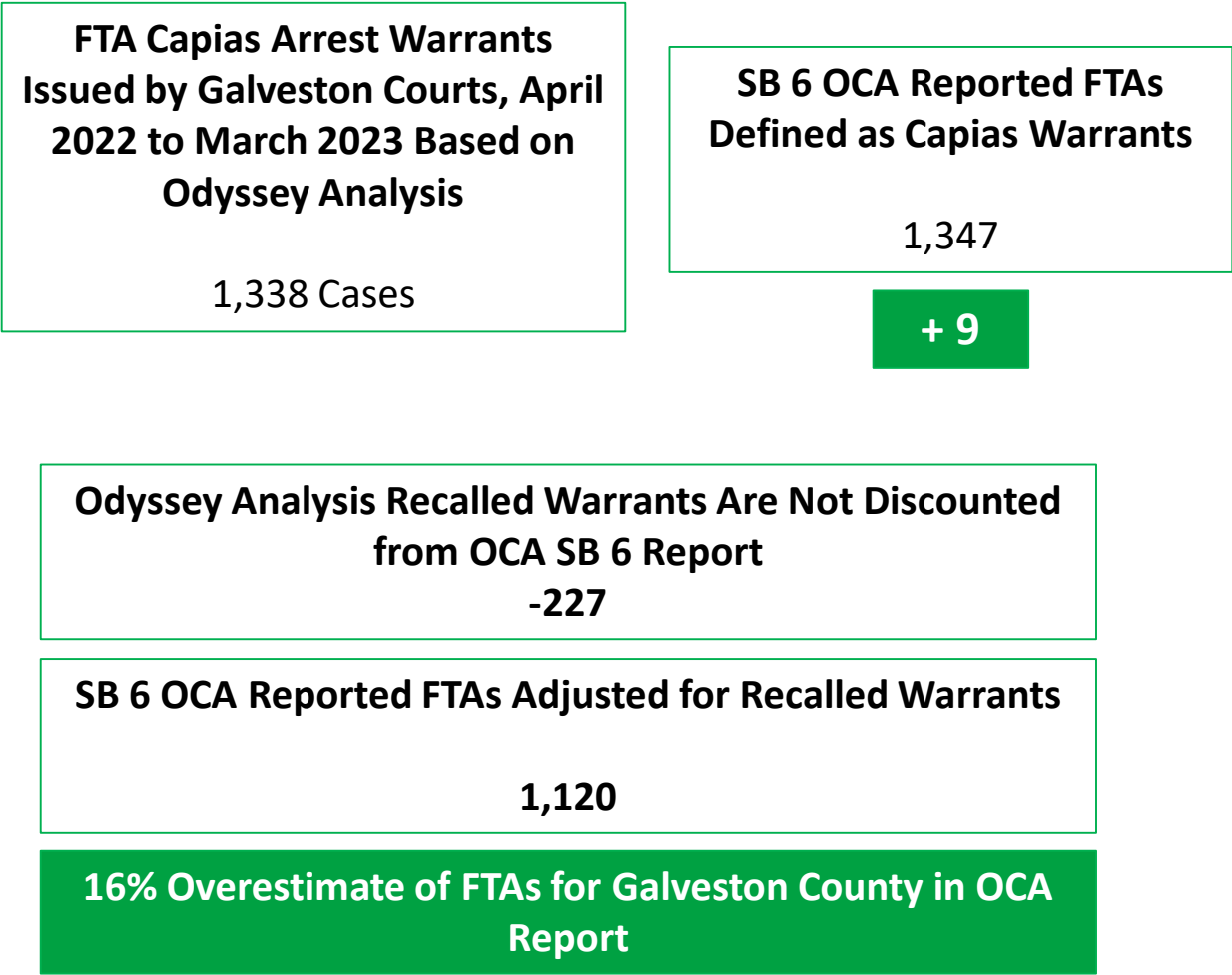
Open/Active  
50 (9%)

Recalled  
112 (19%)

**Recalled Total**  
**236**  
**17%**



# SB 6 OCA Report Does Not Discount Recalled Capias Warrants



# Court Disposition of Cases with FTA Capias Arrests Warrants

**Disposition of the Warrants as of the First Week of October 20, 2023**

**FTA Capias Arrest Warrants Issued by Galveston County Courts, April 2022 to March 2023**

1,336 Cases

**Disposition Status at Time of Snapshot**

| Category                              | Misdemeanors | Felons      | Total       |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Case Still Active at Time of Snapshot | 200          | 97          | 297         |
| Disposed at Time of Snapshot          | 558          | 481         | 1039        |
| Convicted                             | 253 (45.3%)  | 225 (46.8%) | 478 (44%)   |
| Placed on Deferred                    | 35 (6.2%)    | 50 (10.4%)  | 85 (8.2%)   |
| Other                                 | 13 (2.3%)    | 88 (18.3%)  | 101 (9.7%)  |
| Dismissed                             | 257 (46.1%)  | 118 (24.5%) | 375 (36.1%) |

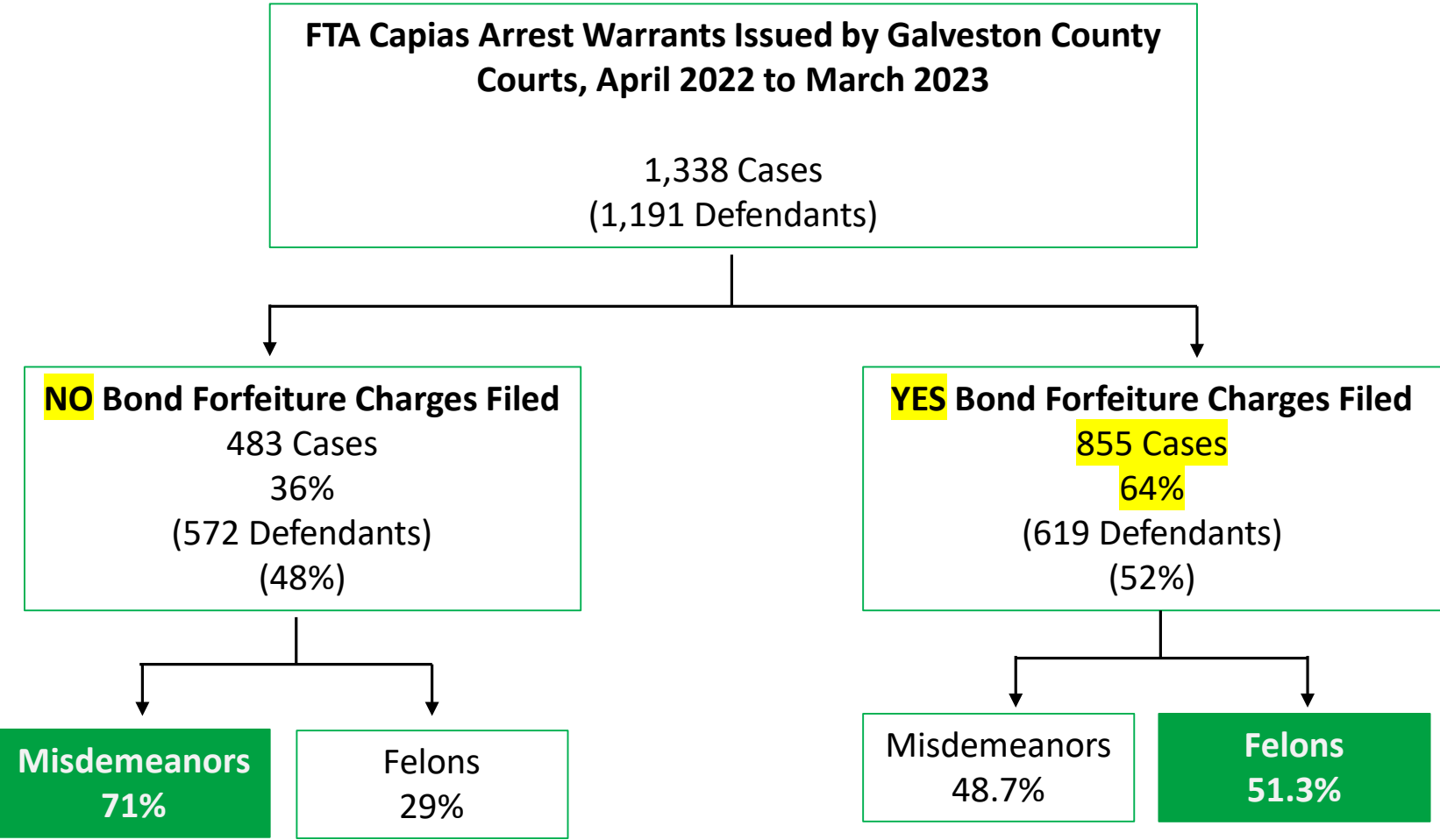
**Dismissed or Placed on Deferred 460 (44.3%)**

# Question Four

---

**QUESTION 4: WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE STUDY PERIOD **FTA CASES** **END IN A CIVIL BOND FORFEITURE** AND HOW WERE THESE CASES DISPOSED AT THE TIME OF THE STUDY SNAPSHOT IN OCTOBER 2023 (19 MONTH FOLLOW UP PERIOD)?**

# IT Analytics to Identify Bond Forfeiture Charges All

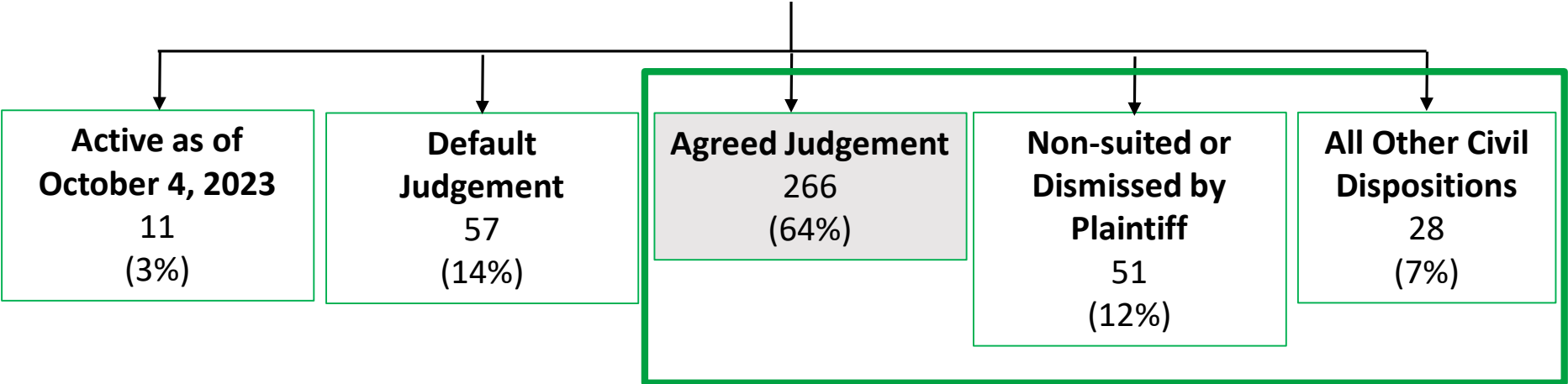


# Disposition of Bond Forfeiture Charges – Misdemeanors

**Disposition of the Cases as of the October 20, 2023**

**Bond Forfeiture Charges in Galveston Civil Courts, Misdemeanor Cases, April 2022 to March 2023**

416 Cases



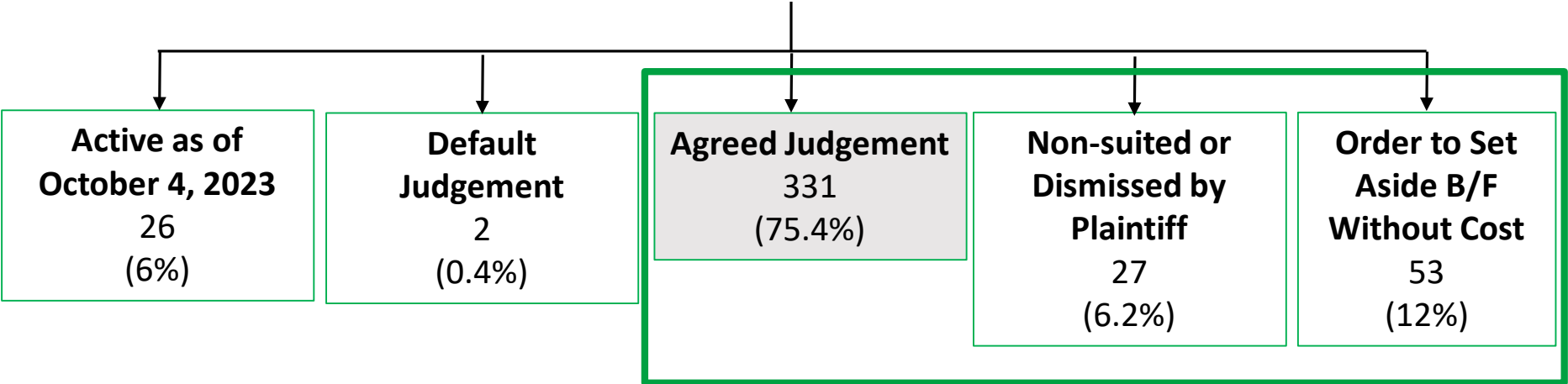
**83% of the Cases**

# Disposition of Bond Forfeiture Charges – Felony

**Disposition of the Cases as of October 20, 2023**

**Bond Forfeiture Charges in Galveston Civil Courts, Felony Cases, April 2022 to March 2023**

439 Felony Cases



**93.6% of the Cases**

## Question Five

---

**QUESTION 5: WHAT IS THE COLLECTION RATE OF FTA BOND FORFEITURES RELATIVE TO OVERALL BOND LIABILITY OF FTA CASES?**

# FTA Bond Liability and Bond Collections for Study Period

SB 6 District and County Clerk FTA Reports Bond Collection Liability from April 2022 to March 2023 and Bond Collections Reported by County and District Clerk for Period

## April 2022 to May 2023 Twelve Month Total

Total FTA Cases  
1,347



Bond Forfeiture Liability  
\$14,319,830

## Bond Collections in Galveston County Related to Bond Forfeiture Litigation\*

County Clerk Reported  
\$246,651.83

District Clerk Reported  
\$393,675.47

**Total**  
**\$640,327.30**

Percent of Total Liability Collected  
4%

\*Receipted funds for the county in Odyssey



# Bond Forfeiture Payment Collection Locations

## Bond Forfeiture Payment Collection Locations

In County Clerk Office

In District Clerk Office

In Sheriffs Office Bonding Division

“Pony Expresses” the Checks to County or District Clerk Offices

Funds Deposited in County Accounts

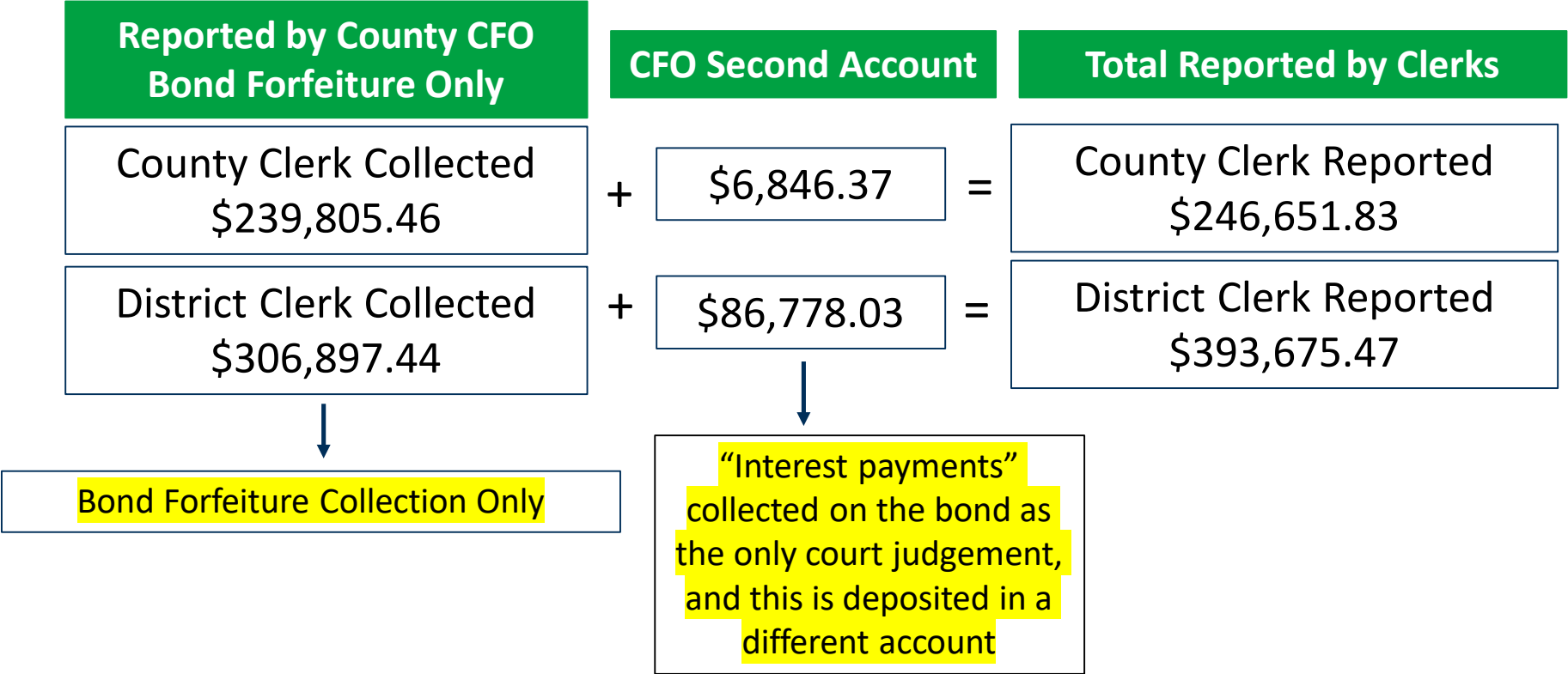


**BOND FORFEITURE'S COLLECTED**

|                    |               | JULY -2023    |           |                   |  |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|-------------------|--|
| Bond Company       | District Clk  | Co. Clk       | Total     | Ytd               |  |
| Gulf Coast         | \$13,194      | \$7,224       | \$20,418  | \$169,347         |  |
| Aable              | \$3,452       |               | \$3,452   | \$6,942           |  |
| Dominguez-         |               |               | \$0       | \$4,138           |  |
| Jacobo -           |               | \$437         | \$437     | \$21,097          |  |
| CASH-              |               |               | \$0       | \$1,429           |  |
| ASAP-              |               |               | \$0       | \$0               |  |
| ALL TX             |               |               | \$0       | \$0               |  |
| Island             |               |               | \$0       | \$1,028           |  |
| Htown/ BA-         |               |               | \$0       | \$48,775          |  |
| SET EM FREE        | \$539         |               | \$539     | \$639             |  |
| Out Co-            |               | \$3,932       | \$3,932   | \$16,119          |  |
| Batter Bail-       |               | \$786         | \$786     | \$1,975           |  |
| <b>Month Tot:</b>  | \$17,185      | \$12,379      | \$29,564  |                   |  |
| <b>Ytd Totals:</b> | DC: \$128,634 | CC: \$142,855 | Total =   | \$271,389         |  |
| 2 YEAR YTD TOTALS  |               |               |           |                   |  |
| 2022 DIST. CLERK-  | \$121,251     | CO. CLERK-    | \$221,989 | Totals: \$343,240 |  |
| 2021 DIST. CLERK-  | \$87,603      | CO. CLERK-    | \$66,185  | Totals: \$153,788 |  |

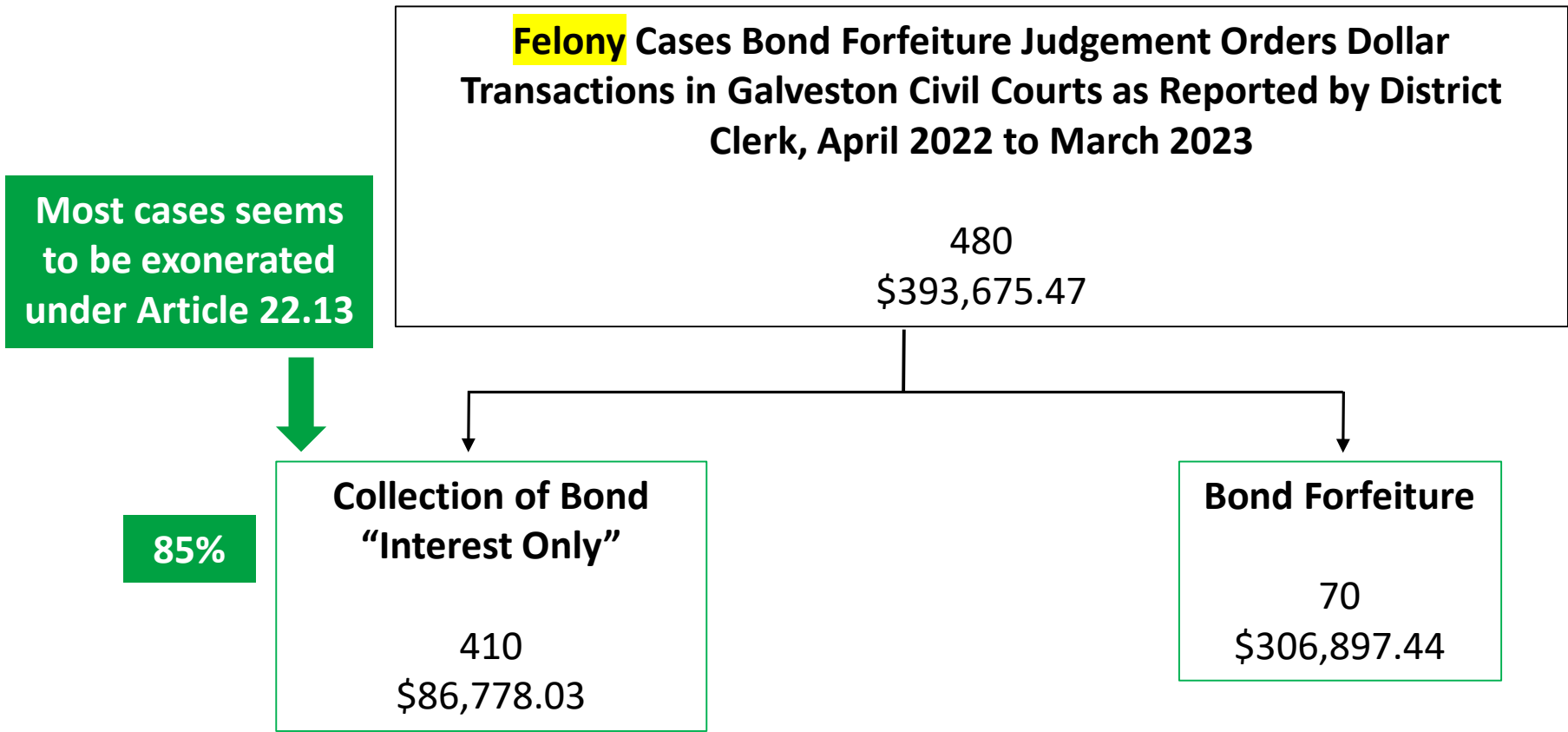
# Reconciliation of Clerk Reports and CFO Reports

Galveston County Bond Forfeiture and Court Cost Revenue, Study Period, April 2022 to March 2023, Figures Reported by Galveston County Chief Financial Officer



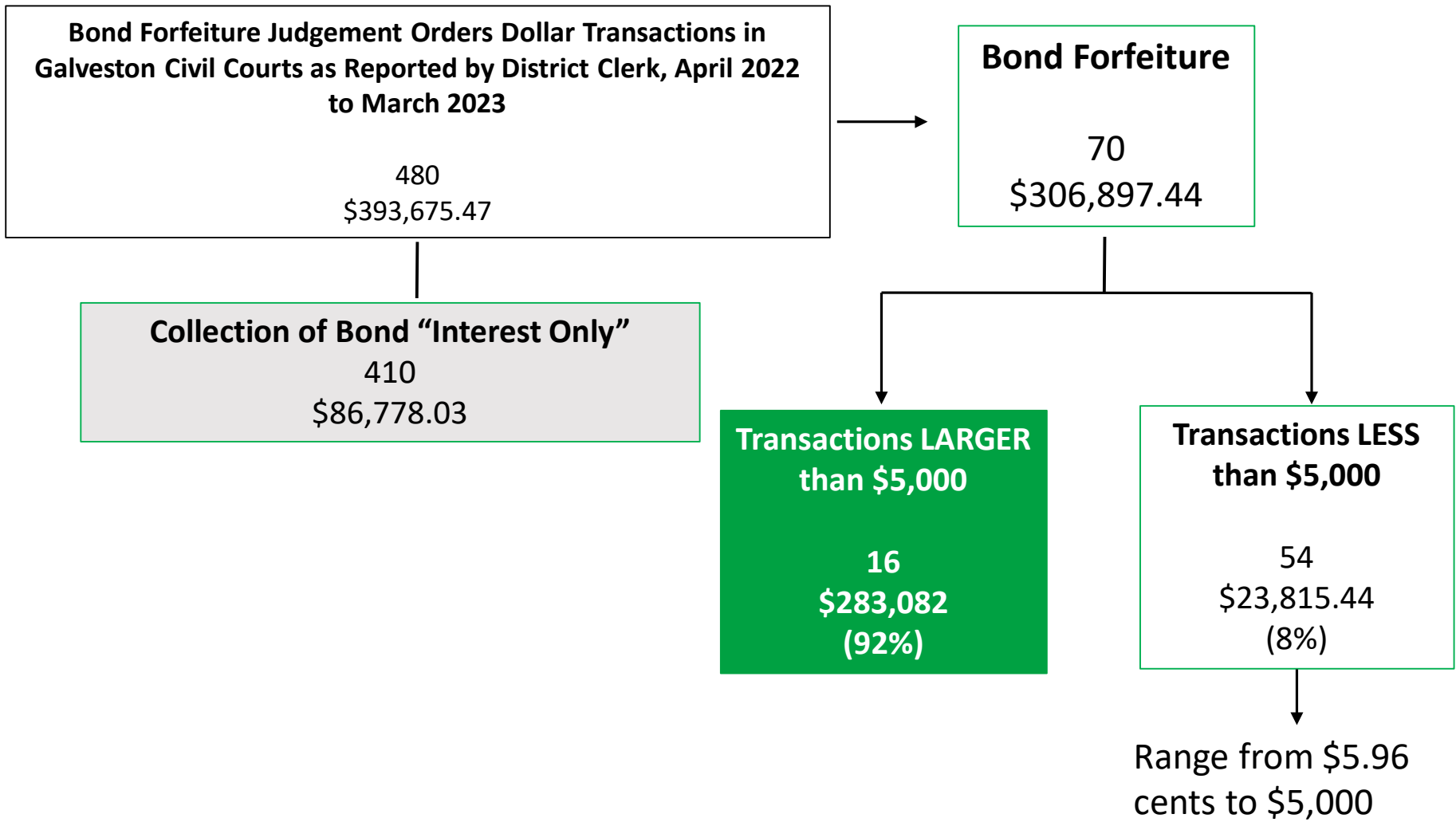
\* Email from Sergio Cruz to Fabelo, September 15, 2023

# Most of the Forfeiture Cases Seems to Have Bond Exonerated



CCP, Art. 22.13 5(b) A surety exonerated under Subdivision 5, Subsection (a), remains obligated to pay costs of court, any reasonable and necessary costs incurred by a county to secure the return of the principal, and interest accrued on the bond amount from the date of the judgment nisi to the date of the principal's incarceration.

# Most Bond Forfeiture Orders Dollars Driven by Few Cases



# District Clerk Payment Report Example

## Payment Report - Transaction/Adjustment Detail

TXGALVESTONPROD2019

| Date                           | Receipt Type / Number    | Tender Method  | Fee Total | Transaction Total |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-----------|-------------------|
| AuditID: 4440208<br>4/18/2022  | Payment<br>2022-06277-DC | Check 12000.00 | 12,000.00 | 12,248.00         |
| AuditID: 4459435<br>5/18/2022  | Payment<br>2022-08713-DC | Check 500.00   | 500.00    | 748.00            |
| AuditID: 4459398<br>5/18/2022  | Payment<br>2022-08692-DC | Check 1537.00  | 1,537.00  | 1,785.00          |
| AuditID: 4584988<br>12/22/2022 | Payment<br>2022-20864-DC | Check 9000.00  | 9,000.00  | 9,334.00          |
| AuditID: 4602405<br>1/24/2023  | Payment<br>2023-01428-DC |                | 40,000.00 | 40,334.00         |
| AuditID: 4602807<br>1/25/2023  | Payment<br>2023-01482-DC |                | 2,500.00  | 2,748.00          |
| AuditID: 4535314<br>9/23/2022  | Payment<br>2022-16510-DC |                | 0.36      | \$5.96            |
| AuditID: 4459434<br>5/18/2022  | Payment<br>2022-08712-DC |                | 5.60      |                   |
| AuditID: 4597986<br>1/17/2023  | Payment<br>2023-00935-DC | Check 12.75    | 12.75     | 527.44            |
| AuditID: 4585460<br>12/22/2022 | Payment<br>2022-20883-DC | Check 5000.00  | 5,000.00  | 5,000.00          |
| AuditID: 4571241<br>11/29/2022 | Payment<br>2022-19692-DC | Check 9.10     | 9.10      | 902.50            |
| AuditID: 4636637<br>3/16/2023  | Payment<br>2023-04910-DC | Check 1771.11  | 1,771.11  | 2,335.12          |
| AuditID: 4632590<br>3/9/2023   | Payment<br>2023-04287-DC | Check 15.93    | 15.93     | 369.96            |
| AuditID: 4637166<br>3/17/2023  | Payment<br>2023-05017-DC |                | 7.96      | 450.01            |
| AuditID: 4637172<br>3/17/2023  | Payment<br>2023-05020-DC |                | 7.96      | 380.97            |
| AuditID: 4636344<br>3/16/2023  | Payment<br>2023-04874-DC | Check 86.25    | 86.25     | 522.25            |

Bond Liability = \$40,000

Bond Liability = \$2,000

Bond Liability = \$20,000



# How Realistic is This Cost to Return Defendant to Jurisdiction?

- 1. A Judgment Nisi Declaring Bond Forfeiture was entered in this case on 12/16/2022.
- 2. The Defendant-Principal and Defendant-Surety are, exonerated from liability upon the forfeiture taken as described above for the following reason:

The Defendant-Principal was rearrested on 1/17/2023, within 270 days subsequent to the date of his or her failure to appear in court for the above-referenced criminal case.

Exoneration Reason

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the judgment is awarded to the State against the Defendant-Surety on the bail bond of Defendant-Principal in the sum of \$7.96 for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred to return the Defendant-Principal to this jurisdiction, costs of court, and \$92.05 of interest on the bond amount, as provided by Art. 22.13(b) of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

THIS JUDGMENT DISPOSES OF ALL CLAIMS AND PARTIES AND IS FINAL.

Signed on this the 2 day of March, 2023.

Bond Liability = \$20,000

# How Realistic is Cost? (continued)

- 1. A Judgment Nisi Declaring Bond Forfeiture was entered in this case on 12/2/2021.
- 2. The Defendant-Principal and Defendant-Surety are, exonerated from liability upon the forfeiture taken as described above for the following reason:

The Defendant-Principal was rearrested on 2/23/2022, within 270 days subsequent to the date of his or her failure to appear in court for the above-referenced criminal case.

Exoneration Reason

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the judgment is awarded to the State against the Defendant-Surety on the bail bond of Defendant-Principal in the sum of \$5.96 for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred to return the Defendant-Principal to this jurisdiction, costs of court, and \$23.88 of interest on the bond amount, as provided by Art. 22.13(b) of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

**Bond Liability = \$2,000**

# Full Bond Forfeiture is Exception Rather Than Rule Under Law

1. The criminal cause number is [REDACTED]
2. Following the Defendant-Principal's failure to appear in court on 6/11/2021 for the above-referenced criminal case, the Court entered a Judgment Nisi Declaring Bond Forfeiture herein on 6/11/2021.
3. No sufficient cause is shown for the Defendant-Principal's failure to appear on 6/11/2021, to answer the charge against him/her and that the Judgment Nisi heretofore rendered against the Defendant-Principal and Defendant-Surety should be made final.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the State is hereby awarded and shall have and recover from the Defendant-Principal and Defendant-Surety only the following: 1) \$40,000.00; 2) any and all applicable court costs, as provided by Art. 22.13(b) of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

**Bond Liability = \$40,000**  
**Bond Forfeiture = \$40,000**



**PART 1: EXPLORING THE ISSUE BY ANSWERING FIVE KEY QUESTIONS**



**PART 2: REVIEW OF CASE STUDY**

**PART 3: SUMMARY**

**SIX QUESTIONS FOR BRAINSTORMING DURING NEXT MEETING OF CC NOVEMBER 3, 2023**

# Overview of Process Using a Case Study - Surety Bond Release



**Tracking a 39 Year-Old Male from Arrest, to FTA, to Conviction**  
**Information is Public Record but Name Not Shown Here**

Trial Court: \_\_\_\_\_ Case No: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ SPN: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Booking No. \_\_\_\_\_ Language: English

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
 COUNTY OF GALVESTON

Date/Time of Arrest: 6/21/2022

**MAGISTRATE WARNING, FINDINGS, AND ORDER** **June 21, 2022**

Before me, the undersigned, magistrate of the State of Texas on this day personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ who was given the following warning:

- You are charged with the following:

**Offense(s)**

| Offense   | Warrant | County | Probable Cause | Affidavit Attached | Bail/Fine          | Arrest Date       |
|---|---------|--------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| - POSS MAN DISTR INSTR TO COMMIT RETAIL THEFT - M | No      |        | Yes            | Yes                | \$2,500.00         | 6/21/2022 5:08 PM |
| - THEFT PROP <\$2,500 2/MORE PREV CONV - F        | No      |        | Yes            | Yes                | <b>\$30,000.00</b> | 6/21/2022 5:08 PM |

# Surety Bond Form

CHARGE THEFT PROP < \$2,500 2/ MORE PREV CONV  
THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF GALVESTON

CAUSE NO. [REDACTED]  
COURT [REDACTED]



That we [REDACTED] Known All Men By These Presents:  
[REDACTED] as principal, and the undersigned  
[REDACTED] BAIL BONDING, as

sureties, are held and firmly bound unto the STATE OF TEXAS, in the penal sum of  
THIRTY THOUSAND (\$ 30,000)

**Average 5% to 10% Bond  
fee = \$1,500 to \$3,000**

are bound for the payment of all fees and expenses that may be incurred by any peace officer  
in the event any of the hereinafter stated conditions of this bond are violated for the payment of which sum or sums well and truly to be made, we do bind ourselves, and each of us, our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally.

THE CONDITION OF THIS BOND IS THAT THE DEFENDANT HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH A FELONY

.. “we are bound for the payment of all fees and expenses that may be incurred by any peace officer in re-arresting the said principal in the event any of the hereinafter stated conditions of this bond are violated for the payment of which sum or sums well and truly to be made, we do bind ourselves, and each of us, our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally.”

this obligation shall become void, otherwise to remain in full force and effect.

Signed and dated this 22 day of JUNE, 20 22



**June 22, 2022**

# Notice to Appear

County of Galveston  
600 59<sup>th</sup> Street - Suite 1500  
Galveston, Texas 77551  
409-766-2400  
**NOTICE TO APPEAR**

1 of 5

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

All attorneys, both State and Defense, and said defendant(s) are ordered to be present in the court at this time.

[Redacted]

122ND DISTRICT COURT  
600 – 59<sup>th</sup> Street  
Galveston, Texas 77551

Even if you have negotiated a plea in your case, **YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO APPEAR ON THIS DATE.**

Be familiar with your case and the time elements involved as there will be no general continuances granted.

**FAILURE TO APPEAR IN PERSON OR THRU YOUR ATTORNEY COULD RESULT IN BOND FORFEITURE.**

Your attire and your actions should reflect respect for the Court and for the Judge.

No shorts of any length. No hats. No sunglasses. No muscle T-shirts.  
Your underwear should not be visible. Wear a belt if necessary.

No chewing gum. No food or drinks. No reading the newspaper. Use of electronic devices in the courtroom is prohibited.

**Turn your cell phone OFF.**

Please make every attempt to find suitable arrangements for someone to care for your child while you are in court.

The courtroom, during criminal proceedings, is not a suitable environment for any young child.

Restless or crying babies/children must be taken out of the courtroom.

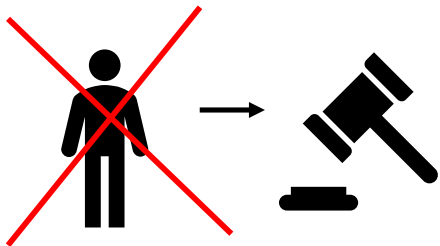
**Defendant and bond company notified of hearing on November 9, 2022**

**Hearing set for January 4, 2023 at 9:00 am - FTA**

**The case had 4 settings of appearance before defendant chose not to appear on the 5th setting (1/4/23)**

**Case placed at inactive state due to active arrest warrant**

# Beginning of FTA Bond Forfeiture Process



*Capias Arrest Warrant*



*DA Files for Bond Forfeiture (NISI)* →

CAUSE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ CIVIL CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
 THE STATE OF TEXAS § IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF  
 VS. § GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS  
 § \_\_\_\_\_ JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**JUDGMENT NISI DECLARING FORFEITURE**

On the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ came the State of Texas by her Criminal District Attorney, and the name of \_\_\_\_\_ Defendant herein, who stands charged with a felony, being duly and distinctly called at the door of the Courthouse to come into court to answer the State of Texas on the charge of a felony according to the tenor and effect of his/her bail bond on file in this Court, but after a reasonable time after such call was made in which to appear, the Defendant came not, but wholly made default.

And if appearing to the court that the above named Defendant, as Principal, together with, \_\_\_\_\_ as Surety (ies), did enter into said bail bond, payable to the State of Texas, in the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_, as approved on \_\_\_\_\_.

The Court finds that the State is entitled to a forfeiture of said bail bond.  
 It is therefore ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED by the Court that the State of Texas do have and recover jointly and severally of and from the above named Defendant-Principal and the above named Surety (ies), \$ \_\_\_\_\_ plus interest as allowed by law and that this Judgment be made final unless good cause be shown this court why said defendant did not appear.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that citation issue to said above named Surety (ies) commanding them to be and appear before this court by filing written answer with the District Clerk's Office, 600 59<sup>th</sup> Street., Galveston, Texas 77551 at or before 10 o'clock a.m. of the Monday next following the expiration of twenty (20) days after the date of service of this citation and show cause why judgment of forfeiture should not be made final.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that notice to the above named Defendant-Principal be deposited in the United States mail directed to the Defendant-Principal at the address shown on the bond.

Capias is ordered issued for the arrest of the above named Defendant and bond is raised to \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D., 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 JUDGE PRESIDING  
 JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
 GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS

Citation shall be served to said individual surety at the address shown on the face of the bond or the last known address of the surety.

Citation shall be served to said corporate surety (or other entity) to the attorney designated for service of process by the corporation or entity under Chapter 804, Insurance Code.

EXTRADITION STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_ ALL STATES \_\_\_\_\_ TEXAS ONLY.

# Judgement NISI Declaring Forfeiture

January 4, 2023

CAUSE NO. [REDACTED]  
THE STATE OF TEXAS  
VS.  
[REDACTED]

§  
§  
§  
§

*Copy*  
CIVIL CASE NO. [REDACTED]  
**FILED**  
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF  
GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS  
2023 JAN 4 PM 2:35  
56th JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
*John D. [Signature]*  
DISTRICT CLERK  
GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS

JUDGMENT NISI DECLARING FORFEITURE

On the 4 day of JANUARY, 2023 came the State of Texas by her Criminal District Attorney, and the name of [REDACTED] defendant herein, who stands charged with a felony, being duly and distinctly called at the door of the Courthouse to come into court to answer the State of Texas on the charge of a felony according to the tenor and effect of his/her bail bond on file in the Court, but after a reasonable time after such call was made in which to appear, the defendant came not, but wholly made default.

And if appearing to the court that the above named Defendant, as Principal, together with [REDACTED] BONDING as Surety(ies), did enter into said bail bond payable to the State of Texas, in the sum of \$30,000, as approved on JUNE 22, 22.

“but after a reasonable time after such call was made in which to appear, the defendant came not, but wholly made default”

# Citation Issued by Clerk

January 5, 2023



JOHN D. KINARD  
CLERK DISTRICT COURT  
FILED  
11:30AM  
JAN 17 2023


CITATION - JUDGMENT NISI TRC 99 & CCP 22.05  
THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO: [Redacted] Bond company [Redacted]

Attached is a copy of the Judgment of Forfeiture (Judgment Nisi) a copy of the forfeited bond, and a copy of the power of attorney if any was provided filed in the 56th District Court of Galveston County, Texas located at 600 59th Street, Suite 4001, Galveston, Texas 77551-2388, on the 01/04/2023 describing the claim against you. You are hereby notified to appear and show cause why the Judgment of Forfeiture (Judgment Nisi) should not be made final the parties in this case are: Plaintiff, The State of Texas vs. John Wilson, et al, Defendants. Defendant(s), **YOU HAVE BEEN SUED.** You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and Judgment of Forfeiture (Judgment Nisi) a default judgment may be taken against you. The District Clerk who issued this citation is located at the Justice Center, 600 59th Street, Suite 4001, Galveston, Texas 77551-2388

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Galveston, Texas, on this the 5th day of January, 2023.

Issued at the request of:  
Galveston County District Attorney  
600 59th Street, Room 1001  
Galveston, Texas 77551-2388



John D. Kinard, District Clerk  
Galveston County, Texas

By: *Rolande Kain*  
Rolande Kain, Deputy Clerk

SEE ATTACHED FORM – NOTE: Status Conference set on 04/06/2023


CERTIFICATE OF DELIVERY BY CERTIFIED MAIL

Came to hand on the 01/05/2023 at 3:00 o'clock P.M. and executed on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of *seegreencard* 20\_\_\_\_ by mailing the same to the above named defendant by registered, certified, and restricted delivery to addressee only, return receipt requested, a true copy of this citation with a copy of the Petition attached thereto.

JOHN D. KINARD, District Clerk Galveston County, Texas  
Authorized Person

BY: *Elissa Alvarado*, Deputy Clerk

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Service Fee:   | \$75.00   |
| Certified Tracking Mail No.<br>9314 7699 0430 0102 9420 52 | Place sticker here<br>[Redacted]<br>Certified Article Number<br>[Redacted]<br>SENDER'S RECORD |
| Date Signed for: <i>seegreencard</i>                       | Signed By: [Redacted]   |

23 - CV - 0014  
DISCLAIMER  
Citation by Certified Mail and Return  
2012482  


“Attached is a copy of the Judgement of Forfeiture (Judgement Nisi) a copy of the forfeited bond...”

“YOU HAVE BEEN SUED...”

Twenty days to answer if not “a default judgement may be taken against you”



# Bond Company Defense Lawyer Answers

January 9, 2023

DATE: January 9, 2023

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
VS.

IN THE 56th DISTRICT COURT  
GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS

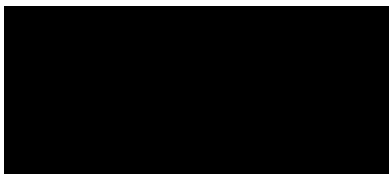
1. DEFENDANT SURETY'S ORIGINAL ANSWER

Comes now, the above referenced Defendant-Surety and files this original Answer and would respectfully show unto the Court as follows:

Defendant denies each and every, all and singular, the allegations contained in the Plaintiff's Original petition and demands strict proof thereof by a preponderance of the evidence pursuant to Tex. R. Civ. Pro. 92.

Defendant-Surety affirmatively pleads equitable remittitur as set forth in Tex. R. Civ. Pro. 315; Art. 17, 19, Chapter 22, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, and Tex. Civ. Atty., All., Art 2372 p-3.

Wherefore, premises considered, Defendant-Surety requests the Court to enter judgment that Plaintiff shall take nothing by this suit; that Defendant recover all costs together with such other and further relief to which Defendant may be justly entitled; and that Defendant receive general relief at law and/or in equity that Defendant is entitled to receive.



Certificate of Service

I certify that a true copy of the above was served on each attorney of record or party in accordance with the Texas  
[Redacted]

*“Defendant denies each and every, all and singular, the allegations contained in the Plaintiff’s Original petition and demands strict proof thereof by a **preponderance of the evidence** pursuant to Tex. R. Civ. Pro. 92.”*

*“Wherefore, premises considered, Defendant-Surety requests the Court to enter judgment that Plaintiff shall take nothing by this suit.....”*



# Agreed Final Judgement of Bond Forfeiture

CAUSE NO. 23-CV-0014

THE STATE OF TEXAS

[REDACTED]

Defendant-Surety

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF  
GALVESTON COUNTY  
56TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
DISTRICT CLERK  
GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS

**FILED**  
23 FEB 15 AM 12:01

**AGREED FINAL JUDGMENT OF BOND FORFEITURE  
(COSTS AND INTEREST ONLY)**

This is a bond forfeiture case. The criminal case cause number [REDACTED] Court finds it has jurisdiction of the subject matter and the parties. The Court makes the additional findings and orders listed below.

February 15, 2023

1. A Judgment Nisi Declaring Bond Forfeiture was entered in this case on 1/4/2023.
2. The Defendant-Principal and Defendant-Surety are, exonerated from liability upon the forfeiture taken as described above for the following reason:  
  
The Defendant-Principal was rearrested on 12/5/2022, within 270 days subsequent to the date of his or her failure to appear in court for the above-referenced criminal case.

and appeal.

THIS JUDGMENT DISPOSES OF ALL CLAIMS AND PARTIES AND IS FINAL.

Signed on this the 15 day of February, 2023.

Louise G.  
PRESIDING JUDGE

APPROVED AS TO SUBSTANCE AND FORM:  
Megan S Jones  
MEGAN JONES  
ASST. CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Agreed Judgment - Final - OCA  
2529857

[REDACTED]

Exoneration Reason

# Bill From District Clerk

**JOHN D. KINARD**  
**GALVESTON COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK**

**FILED**  
 2023 FEB 21 AM 10: 58

Judgment Nisi Cost Statement and Collection Request

Financial Balance Due: **\$446.00**

Filed in the 56th District Court  
 Of Galveston County, Texas

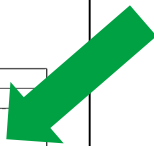
I, John D. Kinard hereby certify this cost statement represents a true and correct financial accounting of the balance due and payable to the District Clerk in the above numbered and styled case. This financial balance includes court costs, fees, interest, and Judgment amounts as awarded in the Court's Final Judgment.

Signed under my hand and seal of office on February 21, 2023.

*John D. Kinard*  
 District Clerk  
 Galveston County, Texas

Prepared By /s/ Destiny Martinez

| District Clerk Internal Use Only |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Date:                            | Cost bill and copy of Judgment sent to Sheriff by Destiny Martinez               |
| Date: <i>2/21/23</i>             | Cost bill, remit letter, & copy of Judgment mailed to Surety by Destiny Martinez |



*“This financial balance includes court costs, fees, interest, and judgment amounts as awarded in the Court’s Final Judgment”*

**February 21, 2023**

**Bond Liability**  
**\$30,000**



**“Financial balance due: \$446.00”**

# Transaction Details – Cost Paid by Bond Company

**Transaction Detail**

Receipt # [Redacted] System [Redacted]

Date 03/06/2023 Type Payment

Amount to be Applied 446.00

Case Party  Non Case Party

Payor [Redacted] Address [Redacted]

Till [Redacted]

Comment [Redacted]

**Tender Detail**

446.00 Check - 6097

Total Amount Tendered 446.00

Amount Applied 446.00

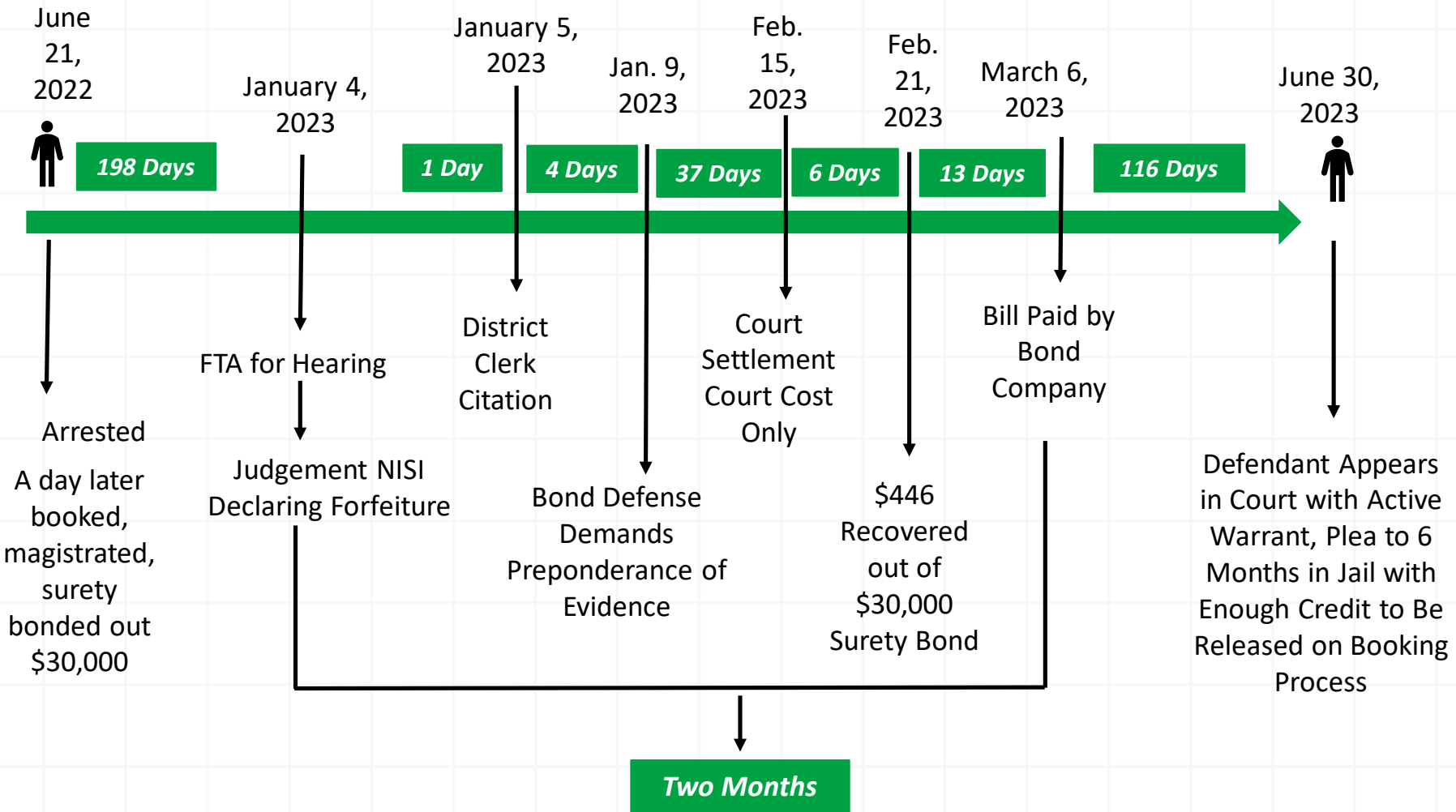
Change Issued From Drawer 0.00

**Transaction Balances**  Use Manual Distribution

| For Party / Fee   | System | Amt to Apply |
|---|--------|--------------|
| [Redacted]  | 446.00 | 446.00       |
| 23-CV-0014  | 446.00 | 446.00       |
| 01/04/2023 Citation \$8 Issuance & Service by Certified | 93.00  | 93.00        |
| Clerk Service Costs                                     | 85.00  | 85.00        |
| Issue Citation  | 8.00   | 8.00         |
| 01/04/2023 Civil Initial Filing Fee                     | 350.00 | 350.00       |
| Local Consolidated Court Costs - New                    | 213.00 | 213.00       |
| State Consolidated Court Costs                          | 137.00 | 137.00       |
| 01/04/2023 Copies (Physical)                            | 3.00   | 3.00         |
| Non-Certified Copies (Physical)                         | 3.00   | 3.00         |

Higher cost than “expenses incurred to return a defendant to jurisdiction” in prior two examples

# Overview of Case Study Timeline



***\$30,000 "Skin in Game" = FTA, No Bond Funds Forfeited, Warrant for Arrest, Plea and Release on Booking Because of Jail Credits***

**PART 1: EXPLORING THE ISSUE BY ANSWERING FIVE KEY QUESTIONS**

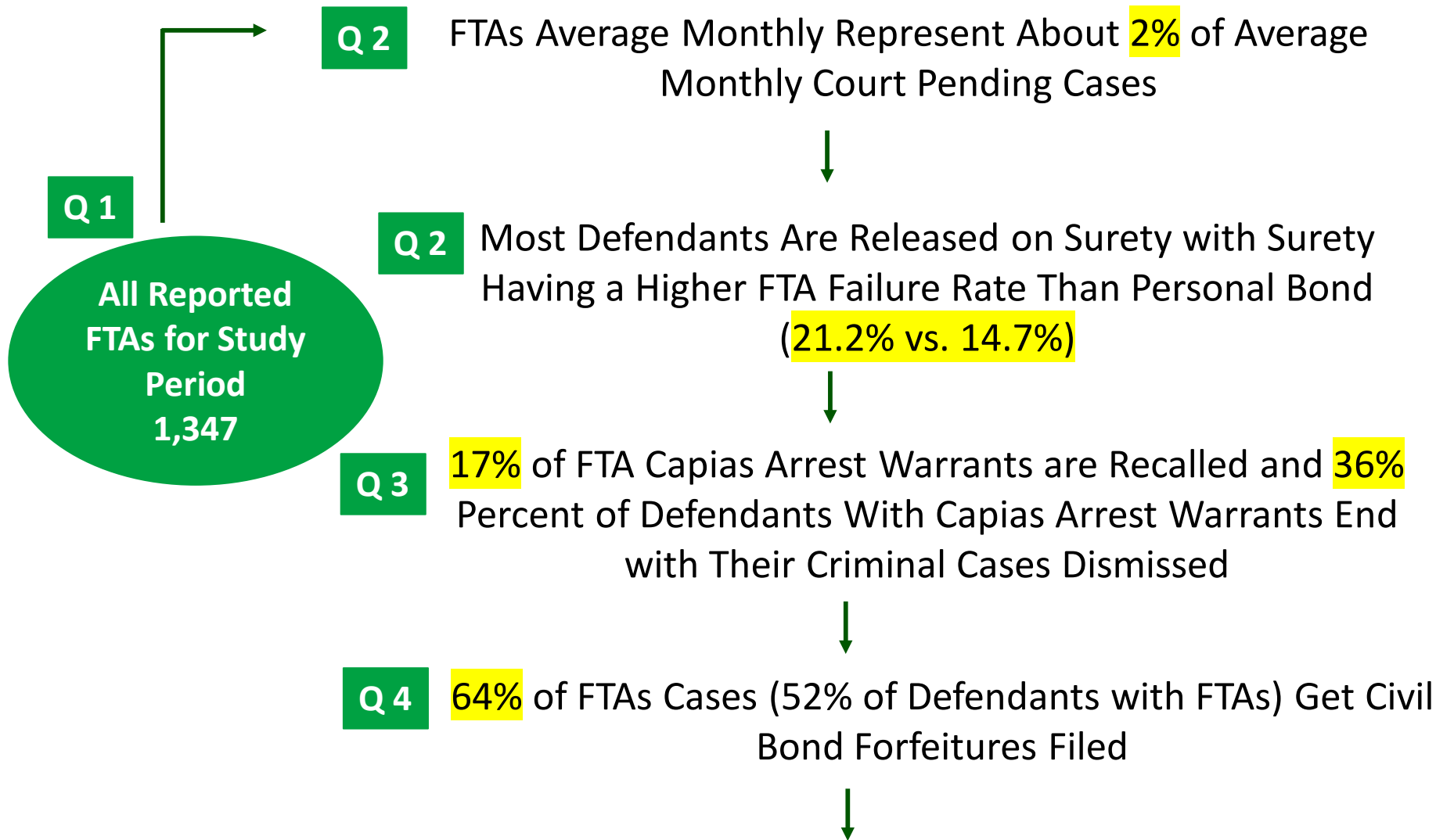
**PART 2: REVIEW OF CASE STUDY**



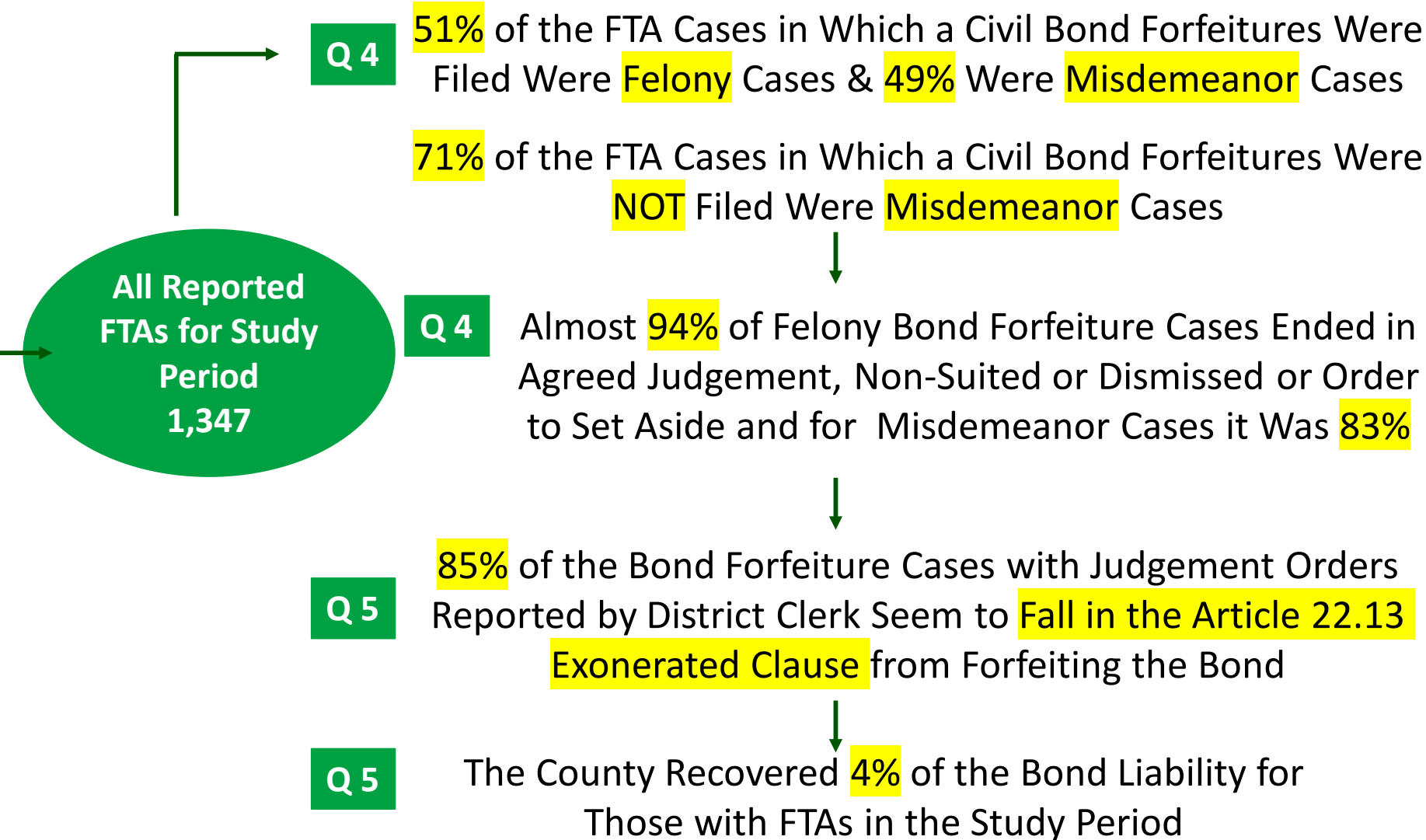
**PART 3: SUMMARY**

**SIX QUESTIONS FOR BRAINSTORMING DURING NEXT MEETING OF CC NOVEMBER 3, 2023**

# Big Picture: Answers to Five Questions



# Big Picture: Answers to Five Questions (continued)



Q 4

51% of the FTA Cases in Which a Civil Bond Forfeitures Were Filed Were Felony Cases & 49% Were Misdemeanor Cases

71% of the FTA Cases in Which a Civil Bond Forfeitures Were NOT Filed Were Misdemeanor Cases

Q 4

Almost 94% of Felony Bond Forfeiture Cases Ended in Agreed Judgement, Non-Suited or Dismissed or Order to Set Aside and for Misdemeanor Cases it Was 83%

Q 5

85% of the Bond Forfeiture Cases with Judgement Orders Reported by District Clerk Seem to Fall in the Article 22.13 Exonerated Clause from Forfeiting the Bond

Q 5

The County Recovered 4% of the Bond Liability for Those with FTAs in the Study Period

# Brainstorming for Next Meeting

---

## Question 1

Should there be a “one-stop location” to pay the Judgement Order (bond forfeiture, court costs, interest)?

## Question 2

For FTA misdemeanor cases, should there be a grace period before a Capias Warrant is issued and, during this grace period, should there be attempts to reschedule the defendant?

## Question 3

When is the “text notification” to defendants for court appointments going to be operational and what protocols should be created for a robust notification/follow up system?



# Brainstorming for Next Meeting

---

## Question 4

Is there a “formula” to calculate bond “interest” and cost related to “expenses incurred to return a defendant to jurisdiction” for cases in which bonds are not forfeited?

What is the formula? Who manages the formula? Should it be updated?

## Question 5

Should there be a monthly report on bond “collection rate”?

## Question 6

Recognizing the limits set by state law, are there strategies that can be considered to increase bond forfeiture collections?

**Thank You!**

Dr. Tony Fabelo, [tfabelo@mmhpi.org](mailto:tfabelo@mmhpi.org)

---

MEADOWS  
**MENTAL HEALTH**  
POLICY INSTITUTE

*Mission*

*To provide independent, nonpartisan, data-driven, and trusted policy and program guidance that creates systemic changes so all Texans can obtain effective, efficient behavioral health care when and where they need it.*