

AGENDA ITEM 34

Consider approving an additional filing fee of \$15.00 per divorce application and be allocated to the Williamson County Crisis Center.

Theresa Leftwich addressed the court in her capacity as the Executive Director of the Williamson County Crisis Center regarding House Bill 2292, which passed in the Legislature of the State of Texas on May 28, 2003. Ms. Leftwich explained that the Williamson County Crisis Center meets the criteria as set forth in that legislation, and she requested that such funds be collected for and allocated to that operation.

Moved: Commissioner Boatright

Seconded: Commissioner Limmer

Motion: To approve an additional filing fee of \$15.00 per divorce application to be allocated to the Williamson County Crisis Center.

Vote: 3 – 0. Commissioner Hays was absent from the dais.

< Attachment >



WILLIAMSON COUNTY CRISIS CENTER

Serving Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

24-Hour Hotline: 1-800-460-SAFE

October 13, 2003

Williamson County Commissioners Court
Georgetown, TX

Dear Sirs:

During the last Legislative session in Austin, House Bill 2292 passed, which included a provision for county commissioners courts to assess and collect additional fees of up to \$15 in a divorce filing. Based on current filings, these fees could total as much as \$22,000 per year in this county.

Attached is a copy of the wording, as passed unanimously by both the House & Senate.

The WCCC is the only agency in Williamson County that provides comprehensive services for families who are victims of family violence and/or sexual assault and operates a 24 hour hotline and the only emergency shelter. Shelter services are by far the most expensive to maintain.

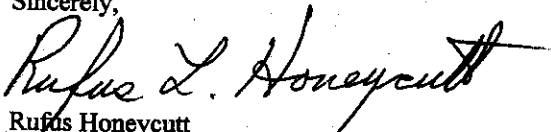
Last year we served 2,300+ families, by providing shelter, counseling, support groups, legal advocacy and transitional housing. In addition we educated over 5,000 students and community members through classrooms, civic organizations, churches and professional trainings, such as those we provide for law enforcement and the criminal justice system. Neither of these numbers include the almost 10,000 calls we received on our hotline. Our nights of shelter provided have increased almost 40% from last year.

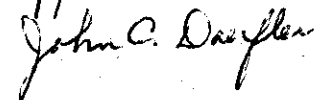
The Board of Directors requests that the Commissioners Court approve the additional filing fee of \$15 per divorce application through the Williamson County District Clerk's office, and that these funds be allocated to the Williamson County Crisis Center to provide services to victims of family violence.

These funds have the potential to help us serve more clients annually, as well as provide more comprehensive services to those clients.

We thank you in advance for your consideration and for your strong support of this agency over the years.

Sincerely,


Rufus Honeycutt
Board President, WCCC

approved 10-28-03


H.B. No. 2292

AN ACT

relating to the provision of health and human services in this state, including the powers and duties of the Health and Human Services Commission and other state agencies; providing penalties. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SUBCHAPTER M. ADDITIONAL FILING FEE FOR FAMILY PROTECTIONSec. 51.961. FAMILY PROTECTION FEE.

- (a) The commissioners court of a county may adopt a family protection fee in an amount not to exceed \$15.
- (b) (b) Except as provided by Subsection
- (c) (c), the district clerk or county clerk shall collect the family protection fee at the time a suit for dissolution of a marriage under Chapter 6, Family Code, is filed. The fee is in addition to any other fee collected by the district clerk or county clerk.
- (d) (c) The clerk may not collect a fee under this section from a person who is protected by an order issued under:
- (1) Subtitle B, Title 4, Family Code; or
- (2) (2) Article 17.292, Code of Criminal Procedure.
- (e) The clerk shall pay a fee collected under this section to the appropriate officer of the county in which the suit is filed for deposit in the county treasury to the credit of the family protection account. The account may be used by the commissioners court of the county only to fund a service provider located in that county or an adjacent county. The commissioners court may provide funding to a nonprofit organization that provides services described by Subsection (e).
- (f) (e) A service provider who receives funds under Subsection (d) may provide family violence prevention, intervention, mental health, counseling, legal, and marriage preservation services to families that are at risk of experiencing or that have experienced family violence or the abuse or neglect of a child.
- (g) (f) In this section, "family violence" has the meaning assigned by Section 71.004, Family Code.
- (b) Subchapter M, Chapter 51, Government Code, as added by this section, applies only to a filing fee collected for a suit for the dissolution of a marriage under Chapter 6, Family Code, on or after the effective date of this section.

A filing fee collected for a suit for the dissolution of a marriage under Chapter 6, Family Code, before the effective date of this section is governed by the law as it existed immediately before the effective date of this section, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

President of the Senate Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2292 was passed by the House on April 24, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 74, Nays 31, 1 present, not voting; that the House refused to concur in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2292 on May 29, 2003, and requested the appointment of a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the House adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 2292 on June 1, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 87, Nays 58, 1 present, not voting; and that the House adopted H.C.R. No. 305 authorizing certain corrections in H.B. No. 2292 on June 2, 2003, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2292 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 28, 2003, by a viva-voce vote; at the request of the House, the Senate appointed a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the Senate adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 2292 on June 1, 2003, by a viva-voce vote; and that the Senate adopted H.C.R. No. 305 authorizing certain corrections in H.B. No. 2292 on June 2, 2003, by a viva-voce vote.

Secretary of the Senate

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website: WWW.WCCC.INFO

AGENDA ITEM 35

Consider declaring an emergency and approving a budget amendment to acknowledge additional expenditures for Constables 1,2, 3, and 4:

0100-0551-004229	State Law Enforcement Training Monies	88.88
0100-0552-004229	State Law Enforcement Training Monies	1,015.13
0100-0553-004229	State Law Enforcement Training Monies	492.02
0100-0554-004229	State Law Enforcement Training Monies	56.33

Moved: **Commissioner Boatright**

Seconded: **Judge Doerfler**

Motion: To declare an emergency and approving a budget amendment to acknowledge additional expenditures for Constables 1,2, 3, and 4:

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0100-0552-004229	State Law Enforcement Training Monies	1,015.13
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Vote: 4 – 0.

< Attachment >