



# TARRANT COUNTY

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July 10, 2009

To All Criminal Defense Lawyers:

If your client is interested in working as a confidential informant for the Special Referral Committee (SRC) of the Tarrant County Narcotics Unit, please keep the following guidelines in mind (**effective September 1, 2009**):

**First**, an application to the SRC must be received *before* your client's case is placed on "Status Conference" docket. The SRC will refuse to consider late applications unless your client can demonstrate good cause for the delay.

**Second**, the SRC does not take a position in matters regarding court settings or trial schedules. The C.I. approval decision cannot be made "overnight" as it is a very time-consuming process. We cannot speed up this process because your client waited until the week before trial to decide to cooperate and the SRC will not join in Defense requests for continuances or re-sets.

**Third**, the SRC does not join in Defense requests for new bonds or bond reductions. The SRC will not offer its assistance regarding any potential parole hold that your client may have while in custody. These decisions rest squarely with the judges or the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. The SRC will not seek to get your client out of custody in order to work for us. If your client is currently in custody, it is still possible for him or her to go through the application process; however, if your client were to be approved, the SRC will not formally request that he or she be granted any new bond or bond reduction.

**Fourth**, the SRC does not agree to any form of consideration upfront. While this may be a deal-breaker for your client, it is non-negotiable. If approved to work, your client will receive an amount of consideration commensurate with his or her fulfillment of the agreed-upon work goals. This could be in the form of a lower prison sentence, probation, or even a dismissal; however, the SRC will not agree to any form of disposition prior to your client discharging his or her obligations to us.

**Lastly**, please remember that the approval process begins when your client submits a formal application letter to the SRC. We will then request that a detective conduct an interview with your client to assess the client's information. **You, as the attorney, will need to sign the application agreeing to this interview.** If the detective endorses your client as a C.I., he or she will then submit a proposal letter to the SRC, summarizing his or her opinion of your client, the quality of the information or potential targets, and the amount of work that your client agrees to provide in exchange for consideration. Upon receipt of this letter, the SRC will promptly review your client's application and will notify you of our decision as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

JIM HUDSON, Assistant  
Criminal District Attorney  
Tarrant County Narcotics Unit