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Shuranda Williams, #19059956
P.O. Box 660334
Dallas, TX 75266

Dear Ms. Williams:

At the current time, the Dallas County criminal justice system is at a standstill because of the Covid-19 crisis. No client on bond, civilian witness, family member, juror, or anyone other than lawyers or court personnel are allowed in the courthouse. Cases which are set for announcement are handled by the defense attorney, the assistant district attorney, and Court coordinator passing cases via email. All jury trials are cancelled or being reset for dates in the future which are uncertain. It is uncertain when the government will allow citizens to come to the courthouse to assemble jury panels and if citizens will feel comfortable doing so at that time. There will be hundreds of defendants who are confined in jail who will be backed up and waiting for jury trials at that time.

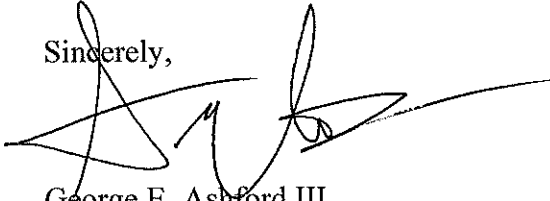
Here is what I am doing and what **can** be done right now. I am provided with the discovery on each case which I can access on the cloud through any computer that I have access to. I can and I am reviewing police reports, lab reports, videos etc. that apply to each case that I am assigned to. The courts are conducting some bond reduction hearings by connecting all parties through a computer application called Zoom. I have participated in a few of these where the Judge, the Assistant District Attorney, the Court Reporter, myself, and the family member I called as a witness were all in our separate homes at the time.

However, **the Judges are not reducing or giving PR bonds to everyone in jail because of Covid-19.** Each case is judged on a case by case basis. Unfortunately, most of the cases that I am personally assigned to are serious first- and second-degree felonies or involve individuals with substantial criminal history.

The only cases that are really able to be moved right now are cases in which the defendant is in jail and the final disposition is agreed. This means that there is a plea bargain where you are going home on probation **or** you have agreed to a certain amount of penitentiary time. If you agree to a sentence involving penitentiary time you will not be transferred because the crisis has all transfers suspended. No inmate from any county is going to TDC right now. However, **any time you spend in the county jail is credited to you as back time on a prison sentence.** This is the law and always has been.

I hope this letter has answered some of the questions you might have. This is a new situation that has never occurred before.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George E. Ashford III'. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'G' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

George E. Ashford III
GEA/ac