

**ROCKDALE COUNTY
CONYERS, GEORGIA**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE VI OF CHAPTER 6 IN PART I OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF ROCKDALE COUNTY REGARDING AN UPDATE TO THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS; pursuant to Section 2-201 of Article IV, Part I of the Rockdale County Code of Ordinances, the Board of Commissioners has the authority to create, abolish, or consolidate county departments as deemed necessary; and

WHEREAS, upon review of the structure and function of the existing county departments, the Board of Commissioners finds that the following amendments are appropriate in order to advance the proper and efficient administration of county government for the benefit of the public in which it serves.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that it is the intention of the Rockdale County Board of Commissioners and it hereby is ordained by the authority of same that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Code of Rockdale County, Georgia, and the sections of the code and this ordinance may be renumbered to accomplish that intention, and that Article VI in Chapter 6 of Part I of the Code of Ordinances of Rockdale County, Georgia, hereby is amended as follows:

Section 1.

The title of Article VI of the Code of Ordinances of Rockdale County, Georgia is hereby amended to replace the title "Public Defender" with "The Law Office of the Rockdale Circuit Public Defender"

Section 2.

Article VI of the Code of Ordinances of Rockdale County, Georgia is hereby amended to replace all references to the "Public Defender" with "The Law Office of the Rockdale Circuit Public Defender"

Section 3.

Sections 6-241 and 6-242 of the Code of Ordinances of Rockdale County, Georgia is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following text:

Section 6-241. The Law Office of the Rockdale Circuit Public Defender, created.

A department of The Law Office of the Rockdale Circuit Public Defender is hereby created for the county. The Law Office of the Rockdale Circuit Public Defender shall be composed of a Circuit Public Defender as the highest supervisor of the public defender office providing indigent defense representation as defined by law in [O.C.G.A. §17-12-2](#). Subject to state

funding and the direction of the Georgia Public Defender Council, additional employees to support the interests of indigent defense are under the authority of the Circuit Public Defender.

Section 6-242. Compensation; expenses; county to pay.

- a) The Law Office of the Rockdale Circuit Public Defender shall be funded in its entirety by the State of Georgia as outlined in O.C.G.A. §17-12-25 (through 30) and supplemented by Rockdale County as guided in O.C.G.A. §17-12-31 (32 & 34).
- b) For each fiscal year the governing authority of Rockdale County shall include in the annual budget of said county for the operation of the courts of said county an amount sufficient to support the duties of the Law Office of the Rockdale Circuit Public Defender as directed in O.C.G.A. §17-12-34.

Section 4.

Section 6-243(a) of the Code of Ordinances of Rockdale County, Georgia is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following text:

- a) As used in this code, indigent person is defined by state law in O.C.G.A. §17-12-2.

Section 5.

Section 6-244 of the Code of Ordinances of Rockdale County, Georgia is hereby amended to replace the text "Public Defender" with "Circuit Public Defender".

Section 6.

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 7.

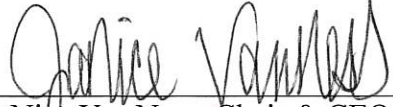
If any section, subsection, provisions or clause of any part of this Ordinance shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional or, if the provisions of any part of this Ordinance as applied to any particular situation or set of circumstances shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity shall not be construed to affect the portions of this Ordinance not so held to be invalid, or the application of this Ordinance to other circumstances not so held to be invalid. It is hereby declared as the intent of the **Rockdale County Board of Commissioners** that this Ordinance would have been adopted in its current form without the invalid or unconstitutional provision contained therein.

Section 8.

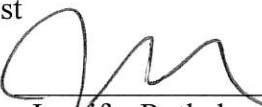
Pursuant to Section 2-32(b) of the Code of Ordinances of **Rockdale County**, Georgia, the second reading of this Ordinance is hereby waived in order to permit this Ordinance to become effective upon its adoption by the **Rockdale County Board of Commissioners**.

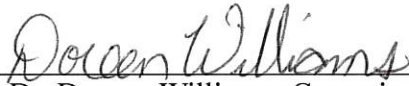
Adopted this 9th day of September, 2025.

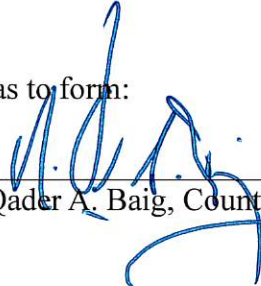
Rockdale County, Georgia
Board of Commissioners

By: 
JaNice Van Ness, Chair & CEO

By: 
Tuwanya Smith, Commissioner Post 1

Attest
By: 
Jennifer Rutledge, County Clerk

By: 
Dr. Doreen Williams, Commissioner Post 2

Approved as to form:
By: 
M. Qader A. Baig, County Attorney

First Reading: 9.9.25
Second Reading: waive