



PRESS RELEASE

Media Contacts :

Laurie Passman

Office: 817-212-6990

Cell: 682-359-1224

LAPassman@tarrantcounty.com

Robbie Hoy

Office: 817-884-3444

Cell: 682-329-1966

Rahoy@tarrantcounty.com

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As North Texas prepares to welcome thousands of international visitors for upcoming FIFA matches, the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) has released a new "Visitor Guide: Understanding Law Enforcement and Arrest Procedures." The guide is designed to help guests from around the world better understand local laws, law-enforcement practices, and what to expect if they encounter the criminal-justice system during their stay.

The United States legal system—particularly the arrest, booking, and bond process—can differ significantly from procedures in other countries. The new guide provides a clear, easy-to-follow overview of how these processes work in Tarrant County, including:

- What happens during an arrest
- The booking and identification process
- How bond and release procedures function
- Rights individuals have while in custody
- How to access assistance or information

To ensure accessibility for all visitors, TCSO also provides translation services, allowing staff to communicate with individuals in a wide range of languages. These services are available both in the jail and through the Sheriff's Office communications channels.

Please feel free to distribute or post the attached digital copy of the visitors guide on your website and social channels.

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STAY CONNECTED

Visitor Guide: Understanding Law Enforcement & Arrest Procedures

Welcome Message for International Visitors

We are excited to welcome guests from around the world to enjoy the FIFA World Cup and the many events happening throughout our cities and counties. Our goal is for every visitor to have a safe and enjoyable experience. Because laws, customs, and expectations may differ from those in your home country, we want to help you understand what to expect if you encounter law enforcement or become involved in a legal situation.

Respectful Conduct

To ensure a positive experience for everyone:

- Treat others with courtesy.
- Behave responsibly in public spaces.
- Respect public and private property.
- Follow instructions from event staff and law enforcement.
- Be aware that public intoxication, disorderly behavior, property damage, and physical altercations are common reasons for police involvement.

Understanding and following local laws will help ensure a positive experience.

Carrying identification helps avoid delays or confusion.

If a Law Is Violated, You May Be Detained or Arrested

If someone commits an act that violates a city ordinance or state law, the following may occur:

1. Law Enforcement Authority

A law enforcement officer—whether a Police Officer, Deputy Sheriff, Marshal, or Constable—may detain or arrest a person if the officer reasonably believes that the person:

- Has committed an offense,
- Is currently committing an offense, or
- Is about to commit an offense.

Officers may be in uniform or plain clothes. If not in uniform, they will identify themselves as law enforcement.

2. What is an offense?

Public intoxication, disorderly conduct, property damage are a few examples of what may lead to someone getting arrested. Assaulting or inappropriately touching another person are offenses, as well. Driving while intoxicated, theft, possession of marijuana or controlled substances (cocaine, methamphetamines, opioids, etc.) and prostitution are other examples.

Alcohol-related arrests are often the lead cause for arrests during major sporting events such as this.

3. Cooperation During Detention or Arrest

- Follow the officer's instructions.
- Do not resist; resistance can lead to additional charges.
- Arguments or objections should not be made to the officer; they can be addressed later in court.

Friends and Family

- Others should not interfere with an arrest or detention.
- Interference may result in additional arrests.

After an Arrest

1. Transport to a Local Jail

You will be taken to the jail of the agency that made the arrest. Examples:

- Arrest in Arlington → Arlington Police Department Jail
- Arrest in Fort Worth → Fort Worth Police Department Jail

If a visitor under 18 is arrested, the process is different as they are not housed with adults. Additional information can be obtained by the jail staff at the local law enforcement jail where the arrest occurred.

2. Jail Intake Process

- The arrested person will get fingerprinted, a photograph taken, and asked several questions related to obtaining basic identifying information.
- Ask for medical attention, if necessary

Foreign visitors often ask:

- Can I ask for an interpreter – Yes. This is usually provided by a telephonic interpreter service
- Can I contact my embassy – No. The jail staff are required to notify the appropriate embassy/consulate.
- Can I make a phone call – Yes. After the person is processed a phone will be provided.
- What documents should I carry – A passport or state-issued identification should always be carried. If you do not have a passport or identification card, then the process may take longer.

3. Your Rights

While procedures may vary, individuals generally have the right to:

- Remain silent except for providing basic identifying information.
- Request an interpreter if needed.
- Contact a family member, attorney, or consular representative after booking.
- Ask for medical attention if necessary.

4. Magistrate Review

Once at the jail:

- The individual will be processed.
- A magistrate (judge) will review the officer's report.
- The magistrate decides whether there is sufficient probable cause to hold the person.
- The magistrate is not the trial judge, and this step is only a preliminary review of the incident to determine probable cause and bond.

5. Bond or Bail

If the magistrate finds probable cause, a bond amount will be set.

Types of bonds:

- **Personal Recognizance (PR) Bond:** The person is released without paying money, based on a promise to appear in court.
- **Monetary Bond:** Money must be paid for release until the court date.
- **Bond:** Bond is a financial guarantee that you will return for your court date.

6. How to Pay Bond

- A bond may be paid through a licensed bail bond company. *Visit a physical office to avoid scams.*
- Cash bonds can be paid directly at the local jail if the offense occurred in the City of Keller.
- Cash Bonds for all other local agencies within Tarrant County will be processed at the Tarrant County Jail.
 - Unfortunately, Foreign Passports are not acceptable forms of identification for notary documents.
 - Valid forms of ID accepted for cash bonds are current government-issued photo IDs containing a signature, such as a state driver license, state ID card, U.S. passport, or U.S. military ID.
- If no bond is paid at the city jail, the person may be transferred to the county jail (e.g., Tarrant County Jail), which also accepts cash bonds and bail bond company paperwork.

7. Processing Time

The entire process—booking, magistrate review, and release—can take several hours. Friends and family should remain patient during this time.

Release / Court Date

Upon release, the person is free to continue their visit within the United States but is reminded that if they do not appear at the scheduled court date for the offense that was charged against them that a warrant of arrest will be issued for them. The warrant of arrest has no statute of limitations and will remain in effect until the arrest is made.

Thank You and Stay Safe

We recognize cultural differences and want to remind visitors that behaviors acceptable in some countries may violate local laws in the United States and the State of Texas. When in doubt, choose caution. Our goal is to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all local and international visitors during the FIFA World Cup in Texas. Enjoy the games.