

About the DA's Office

The Dallas County District Attorney's Office is led by Criminal District Attorney John Creuzot and represents the State of Texas in the prosecution of Dallas County criminal cases.

The DA's Office works to serve the citizens of Dallas County and has many specialized units including Crimes Against Children, Family Violence, Mental Health, Sexual Assault, Gang Violence, Organized Crime and a Conviction Integrity Unit.

DA Creuzot and his staff are focused on serving the people of Dallas County by seeking justice through steadfastly prosecuting those who commit violent crimes, connecting with the community, and pursuing criminal justice reform. He is also committed to reducing mass incarceration through an innovative approach to low level, first time offenders.

The DA's Office offers many Restorative Justice Programs including:

- DIVERT—Adult Drug Court Program
- AIM — Youthful Offender Program
- SET—Felony Mental Health Program

The DA's Office also offers several Community Engagement programs that play a vital role in helping to make Dallas County a safer and better place to live, work and play. Some of the programs include:

- Community Advisory Board
- Citizen Prosecutor Academy
- DAs in Schools

DA Creuzot believes that Justice is **HARD** work and Justice is **HEART** work.

For more information about services and programs offered, please visit the DA's Office website www.dallascounty.org/da

Meet the District Attorney



John Creuzot was overwhelmingly elected to the office of the Dallas County District Attorney in November 2018.

He is a retired Judge and an award-winning lawyer with more than three decades of experience in the criminal justice system, including more than 21 years as a Felony District Court Judge. His background also includes seven years of service as a Dallas County Assistant District Attorney and Chief Felony Prosecutor as well as a criminal defense lawyer while in private practice.

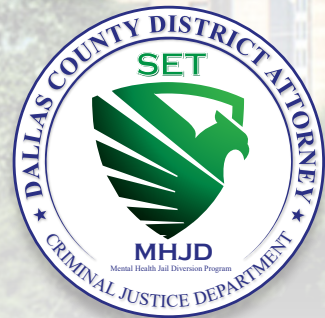
In addition to his trusted service on both sides of the bench, Creuzot has earned a national reputation for his innovative work on drug courts, criminal justice reform and evidence-based sentencing.

After his retirement from the judiciary, Dallas County honored Creuzot by renaming its drug treatment facility the Judge John C. Creuzot Judicial Treatment Center in May of 2013. The center provides an intensive residential program as an alternative to incarceration for Dallas County probationers.

John Creuzot was born in New Orleans and spent his youth in Houston before coming to the Dallas area in the 1970s and graduating from the University of North Texas in 1978 and Southern Methodist University School of Law in 1982. He is a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church.



**THE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
PROCESS 101**



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STAGES OF A FELONY CRIMINAL CASE IN TEXAS

- 1. Arrest & Booking:** Law enforcement arrests the suspect and records formal booking information.
- 2. Magistration & Bail:** A judge explains the charges and rights. Bail is set. The defendant may be released while the case proceeds.
- 3. Charges Filed:** Police file case with DA's Office. DA's Office evaluates case for acceptance or rejection.
- 4. Grand Jury:** If case is accepted, case is sent to Grand Jury. Case can be True-Billed and Indictment Filed in District court. Case can also be no-billed by Grand Jury.

- 5. Pretrial Proceedings:** Evidence is exchanged; motions may be filed.
- 6. Plea Negotiations:** Many cases end with an agreed plea. A Victim Impact Statement (VIS) provided by a victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim will be considered by the prosecutor. Before accepting a plea, the judge must ask if the VIS has been provided and whether the prosecutor has given the victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim notice of the existence and terms of the plea agreement.
- 7. Trial:** If there is no plea agreement, the case heads to trial. A judge or jury reviews evidence and decides the case.

- 8. Sentencing:** If found guilty, the judge or jury decides a sentence which may include imprisonment, probation, restitution, and/or fines. Victims of certain types of crime in Texas are permitted by law to make victim impact statements after sentencing.
- 9. Appeal:** The defendant may request review by a higher court for potential legal errors.
- 10. Parole:** Some individuals may be supervised in the community after part of their sentence is served.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE PROSECUTION?

The prosecutor in a criminal case does not represent the victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim. Instead, they represent the State of Texas and are responsible for pursuing justice on behalf of the public.

While the prosecutor considers the rights and safety of victims and works closely with them throughout the process, their legal duty is to the State, not to any one individual.

If you are a victim of threats, harassment, or intimidation related to a criminal matter in Texas, consider the following:

1. Ensure Immediate Safety
 - Remove yourself from immediate danger whenever possible.
 - Call 911 if you feel threatened or in imminent danger.
2. Document the Threats
 - Keep detailed records of all threats, including dates, times, locations, what was said or done, and any witnesses.
 - Preserve evidence such as text messages, emails, social media messages, or voicemails.
3. Report to Law Enforcement
 - File a report with local police.
 - Provide all documentation and evidence to support your claim.
4. Seek a Protective Order
 - In Texas, you may request a Protective Order to legally prevent the perpetrator from contacting or approaching you.
 - Contact the local family or criminal court for guidance on filing.
5. Notify the Prosecutor
 - If a criminal case is ongoing, inform the prosecutor handling the case.
6. Consider Legal and Victim Advocacy Support
 - Reach out to Texas Crime Victim Services or local victim advocacy organizations for guidance, counseling, and support.
 - An attorney can advise on civil remedies, including injunctions or damages.
7. Maintain Personal Safety Measures
 - Change routines, avoid sharing location information, and secure personal accounts.
 - Consider notifying friends, family, or coworkers about the situation for additional support.

*This diagram shows a general summary of the workflow of a felony criminal case and does not reflect all possible steps in the criminal justice process.

**The DA's Office also advocates for pre-trial diversion opportunities for those who qualify. Currently, the DA's Office funds and sponsors 2 diversion programs, A.I.M. (for youth offenders) and S.E.T. (for offenders suffering from mental illness). Additionally, the DA's Office participates in 13 other specialty courts or diversion programs.