



### **ABSTRACT**

Tarrant County 2021 Submission  
Tarrant County Remote Video Magistration Arlington  
Category: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

The Remote Video Magistration Program provides a mechanism for Tarrant County Magistrates to carry out initial appearance hearings for defendants in the City of Arlington who are located at the city jail facility via video conference. All documents required for the process are managed electronically. If the defendant is able to make bond, or if the magistrate finds that no probable cause exists for the arrest, the defendant is released in Arlington without ever being transported to the main Corrections Center in Fort Worth. Arlington is the pilot city for this program, which became operational in October of 2020, and the program is currently being expanded to additional cities across Tarrant County at this time. The program results in reduced costs for defendant transport and housing, as well as reducing impact and inconvenience on defendants who are released or can make bond, and ensuring more consistent legal outcomes by ensuring that Tarrant County magistrates perform all initial appearance hearings with consistent practices and principles.



## NEWS RELEASE

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# Tarrant County earns national achievement award(s) for Remote Video Magistration Arlington

**WASHINGTON – Tarrant County** Remote Video Magistration Arlington has been recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents.

NACo recognized **Tarrant County Remote Video Magistration Arlington, in the category of Criminal Justice and Public Safety.**

The Remote Video Magistration Arlington provides a mechanism for Tarrant County Magistrates to carry out initial appearance hearings for defendants in the City of Arlington who are located at the city jail facility via video conference. All documents required for the process are managed electronically. If the defendant is able to make bond, or if the magistrate finds that no probable cause exists for the arrest, the defendant is released in Arlington without ever being transported to the main Corrections Center in Fort Worth. Arlington is the pilot city for this program, which became operational in October of 2020, and the program is currently being expanded to additional cities across Tarrant County at this time. The program results in reduced costs for defendant transport and housing, as well as reducing impact and inconvenience on defendants who are released or can make bond, and ensuring more consistent legal outcomes by ensuring that Tarrant County magistrates perform all initial appearance hearings with consistent practices and principles.

NACo President Gary Moore said, “Over the past year, county officials and frontline employees have demonstrated bold, inspirational leadership. This year’s Achievement Award winning programs illustrate the innovative ways counties build healthy, safe and vibrant communities across America.”

Nationally, awards are given in 18 different categories that reflect the vast, comprehensive services counties provide. The categories include children and youth, criminal justice and public safety, county administration, information technology, health, civic engagement and many more.

Started in 1970, NACo’s annual Achievement Awards program is designed to recognize county government innovations. Each nominee is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received.

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*The National Association of Counties (NACo) strengthens America's counties, including nearly 40,000 county elected officials and 3.6 million county employees. Founded in 1935, NACo unites county officials to advocate for county government priorities in federal policymaking; promote exemplary county policies and practices; nurture leadership skills and expand knowledge networks; optimize county and taxpayer resources and cost savings; and enrich the public's understanding of county government. [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org)*

