

MICHAEL A. STAFFORD
First Assistant, County Attorney



1019 Congress, 15th Floor
Houston, TX 77002-1700
Phone: (713) 755-5101
Fax: (713) 755-8924

RQ-0297-JC

MICHAEL P. FLEMING
County Attorney
Harris County, Texas

October 13, 2000

RECEIVED

OCT 19 2000

OPINION COMMITTEE

The Honorable John Comyn
Attorney General
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, Texas 78711-2548

RECEIVED

OCT 17 2000

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION

1692 SG

FILE # ML-41708-00

I.D. # 41708 dup

Re: Requirements for conducting a telephone conference call pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, TEX. GOV'T CODE ANN. § 551.125 (Vernon Supp. 2000).

Dear General Comyn:

This letter is to request your opinion relating to the requirements for conducting a meeting of the county Commissioners Court by telephone conference call pursuant to TEX. GOV'T CODE ANN. § 551.125 (Vernon Supp. 2000).

We ask the following questions:


1. Must the notice of the telephone conference call meeting expressly state that the meeting will be conducted as a telephone conference call meeting?
2. What is the meaning of "difficult or impossible" as used in Section 551.125(b)?
3. If a quorum of the Commissioners Court physically appears at the location designated in the notice as the location of the meeting, may or must the other members of the Court be joined in the meeting by telephone conference call?
4. In setting up the telephone conference call, what level of effort must be made to contact the members of the Court not physically present at the designated location of the meeting?

Our memorandum is attached. If you need any additional information, please contact the undersigned at 713-755-7880.


Thank you for your courtesy and cooperation.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL P. FLEMING
County Attorney


By JOHN R. BARNHILL
Assistant County Attorney

Approved:



MICHAEL A. STAFFORD
First Assistant County Attorney

Attachments: Memorandum
Bill Analysis