

Rachael Payne, CPA, PLLC

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August 7, 2023

To The Honorable Members
Of The Commissioners' Court
Of Panola County, Texas

I am pleased to confirm my acceptance and understanding of the services I am to provide for the year ended December 31, 2023.

You have requested that I prepare the Chapter 59 Asset Forfeiture Reports for the Panola County Sheriff's Office and the Panola County Constables' Offices for the year ended December 31, 2023.

My Responsibilities

The objective of my engagement is to prepare the Chapter 59 Asset Forfeiture Reports in accordance with the format prescribed by the Office of the Attorney General – Criminal Law Enforcement Division of the State of Texas based on information provided by you and in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. I will conduct my engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services (SSARS) promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA and comply with the AICPA's *Code of Professional Conduct*, including the ethical principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence, and due care.

I am not required to, and will not, verify the accuracy or completeness of the information you will provide to me for the engagement or otherwise gather evidence for the purpose of expressing an opinion or a conclusion. Accordingly, I will not express an opinion, a conclusion, nor provide any assurance on the Chapter 59 Asset Forfeiture Reports.

My engagement cannot be relied upon to identify or disclose any misstatements, including those caused by fraud or error, or to identify or disclose any wrongdoing within the Panola County Sheriff's Office and the Panola County Constables' Offices, or noncompliance with laws and regulations.

I, in my sole professional judgment, reserve the right to refuse to perform any procedure or take any action that could be construed as assuming management responsibilities.

Management Responsibilities

The engagement to be performed is conducted on the basis that you acknowledge and understand that my role is the preparation of the Chapter 59 Asset Forfeiture Reports in accordance with the format prescribed by the Office of the Attorney General-Criminal Law Enforcement Division of the State of Texas and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Management has the following overall responsibilities that are fundamental to my undertaking the engagement to prepare your Chapter 59 Asset Forfeiture Reports in accordance with SSARS:

1. The selection of the format prescribed by the Office of the Attorney General-Criminal Law Enforcement Division of the State of Texas and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as the financial reporting framework to be applied in the preparation of the Chapter 59 Asset Forfeiture Reports.

2. The design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the Chapter 59 Asset Forfeiture Reports that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
3. The prevention and detection of fraud.
4. To ensure that the Panola County Sheriff's Office and the Panola County Constables' Offices comply with the laws and regulations applicable to their activities.
5. The accuracy and completeness of the records, documents, explanations, and other information, including significant judgments, you provide to me for the engagement to prepare the Chapter 59 Asset Forfeiture Reports.
6. To provide me with –
 - access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and presentation of the Chapter 59 Asset Forfeiture Reports, such as records, documentation, and other matters.
 - additional information that I may request from you for the purpose of the preparation engagement.
 - unrestricted access to persons within the Panola County Sheriff's Office and the Panola County Constables' Offices with whom I determine it necessary to communicate.

The Chapter 59 Asset Forfeiture Reports will not be accompanied by a report. However, you agree that the Chapter 59 Asset Forfeiture Reports will clearly indicate that no assurance is provided on them.

Other Relevant Information

I estimate that my fees for these services will be approximately \$1,750. I will begin work on the Panola County Sheriff's Office and the Panola County Constables' Offices accounts after December 31, 2023, and will conclude no later than February 28, 2024. I will be pleased to discuss this letter with you at any time.

You agree to hold me harmless and to release, indemnify, and defend me from any liability or costs, including attorney's fees, resulting from management's knowing misrepresentations to me.

I appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of my engagement. If you have any questions, please let me know. If you agree with the terms of my engagement as described in this letter, please sign the enclosed copy and return it to me.

Very truly yours,

Rachael Payne

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Acknowledged:

Rodger B. McLean 8-15-23
County Judge Date

Billy Algraney 8-15-23
County Commissioner Pct 1 Date

Dan Alb 8-15-23
County Commissioner Pct 2 Date

Jim 8-15-23
County Commissioner Pct 3 Date

Dale Latham 8-15-23
County Commissioner Pct 4 Date