



Cowboy Law Group Details Woodlands Criminal Defense

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THE WOODLANDS, TX - August 20, 2026 -

Cowboy Law Group, a criminal defense law firm based in The Woodlands, Texas, has issued guidance for Montgomery County defendants explaining why the hours immediately following an arrest represent the most consequential window in a criminal case. The firm points to Montgomery County's aggressive enforcement posture, described by local defense attorneys as among the firmest in the Houston metropolitan area, and to the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 15.17 magistration hearing that must occur within 48 hours of arrest.

Under Article 15.17, a person arrested and detained in Montgomery County must be brought before a magistrate within 48 hours. At that hearing, the magistrate informs the defendant of the charges, advises them of their rights, and sets bail. Because bail conditions established at magistration determine whether a defendant remains in custody through what can be months of pretrial proceedings, the firm identifies this as the first critical opportunity for a criminal defense attorney to affect the outcome of a case.

Montgomery County operates a two-track court environment centered in Conroe. Felony matters are heard at the Montgomery County District Courts at 207 W. Phillips Street, while misdemeanor matters, including theft, assault, and DWI cases, are heard at the County Criminal Courts at 301 N. Main Street. The Woodlands Township is patrolled by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and coordinating municipal police departments, and the county's rapid population growth, now exceeding 743,000 residents, continues to generate rising case volume through the Conroe courthouse system that serves The Woodlands, Spring, Conroe, Magnolia, and surrounding communities.

The county's criminal docket carries a high volume of drug possession and distribution charges, assault family violence charges, theft and property crimes, and firearms offenses. Assault family violence charges carry collateral consequences beyond criminal penalties, including emergency protective orders that can restrict access to the family home from the night of arrest, federal firearm prohibitions triggered by conviction, and immigration consequences for non-citizen defendants that become irreversible once a guilty plea is entered.

Drug possession charges, ranging from misdemeanor marijuana matters now complicated by hemp-derived THC product ambiguity in Texas law through felony methamphetamine cases, are prosecuted by the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office. Many originate from traffic stops, raising consent search issues and Fourth Amendment suppression arguments that require immediate defense investigation, a focus central to Cowboy Law Woodlands Criminal Defense practice.

"The magistration hearing is the most important procedural moment of a Montgomery County case, and it happens within 48 hours whether or not a lawyer is present," said Chris H. Warren, Attorney at Cowboy Law Group. "Bail conditions set at that hearing decide whether a defendant spends weeks or months in the county jail during pretrial proceedings. Our attorneys practice before the specific District Court and County Criminal Court judges who hear these cases, and knowing how those courts handle suppression hearings, plea negotiations, and trial scheduling is an advantage that only consistent local practice builds."

For Woodlands-area families, understanding The Woodlands Criminal Defense process from the point of arrest can shape the entire trajectory of a case. Attorneys Chris H. Warren, Brian C. Burns, and J. Paxton Adams practice before the Montgomery County District Courts and County Criminal Courts.

Cowboy Law Group is a criminal defense law firm based in The Woodlands, Texas, representing individuals charged with assault, drug crimes, firearms offenses, DWI, and other felony and misdemeanor criminal matters throughout Montgomery County and the greater Houston area. The firm's attorneys also handle juvenile criminal defense and federal criminal charges. Cowboy Law Group offers free case reviews and is

available 24 hours a day for defendants and families facing criminal charges in Montgomery County.

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For more information about Cowboy Law Group, contact the company here: Cowboy Law Group
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Cowboy Law Group

Cowboy Law Group offers expert criminal and juvenile defense in Texas, combining legal expertise with dedicated representation to protect clients' rights.

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