



The Death Penalty in North Texas

(As of February 1, 2018)

- New death sentences in Texas have **dropped dramatically** since peaking in 1999, when juries sentenced 48 people to death. Since 2017, prosecutors in Texas have sought death in seven cases, resulting in four new death sentences.
- Although Dallas and Tarrant Counties are among Texas' top sentencing counties, Dallas County has not accounted for any new death sentences since 2013. Tarrant County went more than two years without imposing any new death sentences.
- In 2017, prosecutors in Dallas County pursued the death penalty in two capital murder trials; both ended with sentences of life in prison without parole.
- A jury in Tarrant County rejected the death penalty in a capital murder trial in October 2017.
- Of the 10 men sentenced to death in Dallas or Tarrant County since 2011, **9 are African American**.
- Since 1973, **161 individuals** – including 13 people in Texas – have been released from death rows nationwide due to evidence of their wrongful conviction. This includes **Randall Dale Adams**, who spent more than a decade in prison after he was wrongfully convicted of killing a Dallas Police officer, and **Michael Toney**, who was wrongfully convicted in Tarrant County and released in 2009.
- More than **45 men in Dallas County** have been exonerated of other serious crimes since 2001; many of those exonerations were based on DNA evidence.
- Collectively, **40 people** sentenced to death in Dallas or Tarrant County have been removed from death row; in most cases, their sentences were commuted.
- The State of Texas has executed **547 people** since 1982. This includes **57 people** who were convicted and sentenced to death in Dallas County and **40 people** who were convicted in Tarrant County.
- In 2018, Texas **put 2 people to death**, out of 2 executions nationwide. One of these individuals was convicted in Dallas County.
- Currently, there are **232 people on death row** in Texas, including 6 women. Of these, **26 were convicted in Dallas County** and **17 were convicted in Tarrant County**.

For more information, please contact TCADP North Texas Outreach Coordinator Jim Webner at jwebner@tcadp.org.