

## LIMESTONE COUNTY

### PERMIT PROCESS FOR MASS GATHERINGS

A Mass Gathering is defined under Chapter 751 of the Texas Health and Safety Code as an event that can be defined by the following three (3) conditions:

- 1) A gathering that is held outside the limits of a municipality;
- 2) A gathering that attracts or is expected to attract more than 2,500 persons; or more than 500 persons, if 51 percent (51%) or more of those persons **may be reasonably expected to be younger than 21 years of age** and it is planned or may be **reasonably expected** that **alcoholic beverages** will be **sold, served, or consumed** at or around the gathering; and
- 3) A gathering where participants will remain for more than five (5) continuous hours; or for any amount of time beginning at 10:00 p.m. and ending at 4:00 a.m.

An application from the coordinator, manager, organizer, or promoter of such an event must be received in the County Sheriff's office not less than 45 days before the event. The application is available on the Limestone County website : [www.co.limestone.tx.us](http://www.co.limestone.tx.us). An application may be obtained by request from the Sheriff's office at (254) 729-3278 during normal business hours. There is a \$500.00 fee (nonrefundable) due at the time of filing of this application payable to Limestone County.

A public hearing will be conducted no later than ten (10) days before the event. A **person may not promote a mass gathering without a permit issued** by the County Judge, pursuant to Section 751.003 of the Texas Health and Safety Code. A person commits an offense if the person violates Section 751.003. An offense under this section is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, confinement in the county jail for not more than 90 days, or both. The County Judge's office will coordinate the hearing date and time with all affected parties. The hearing will be posted as a public meeting.

Representatives from the Limestone County Sheriff's Office, EMS and Limestone County Emergency Management will need to sign off on the permit application before submission and will also attend the hearing to ensure that the minimum standards in health and sanitation, fire safety and public safety and order are maintained at the gathering as prescribed by state and local laws, rules and orders.

Following the public hearing, the Limestone County Commissioners Court will grant or deny the permit as authorized by Section 751.007 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.