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## **Voucher Information Processing System (ViPS)**

The Voucher Information Processing System is a new Harris County application designed to automate and replace the current paper Vouchers that are used in our Criminal and Juvenile Delinquency Courts. Once complete, the application will provide an all-electronic process for submitting and processing vouchers.

You access ViPS via the Internet. The browsers currently supported are Internet Explorer version 11 and Google Chrome. You may use other browsers but be aware that we have not yet confirmed that the application will function properly in those browsers.

ViPS has been designed to be used primarily on a workstation or laptop. However, we have developed the application using technology that gives the application the ability to automatically adjust the display when it is used on mobile devices such as tablets and smartphones. These automatic adjustments are meant to improve the user experience on these devices. We are not yet finished with fine tuning these adjustments but if you have the opportunity to use ViPS on these devices we encourage you to do so and to provide feedback on your experience. At this point in time we know that the document/invoice upload process does not work on iPads or iPhones.

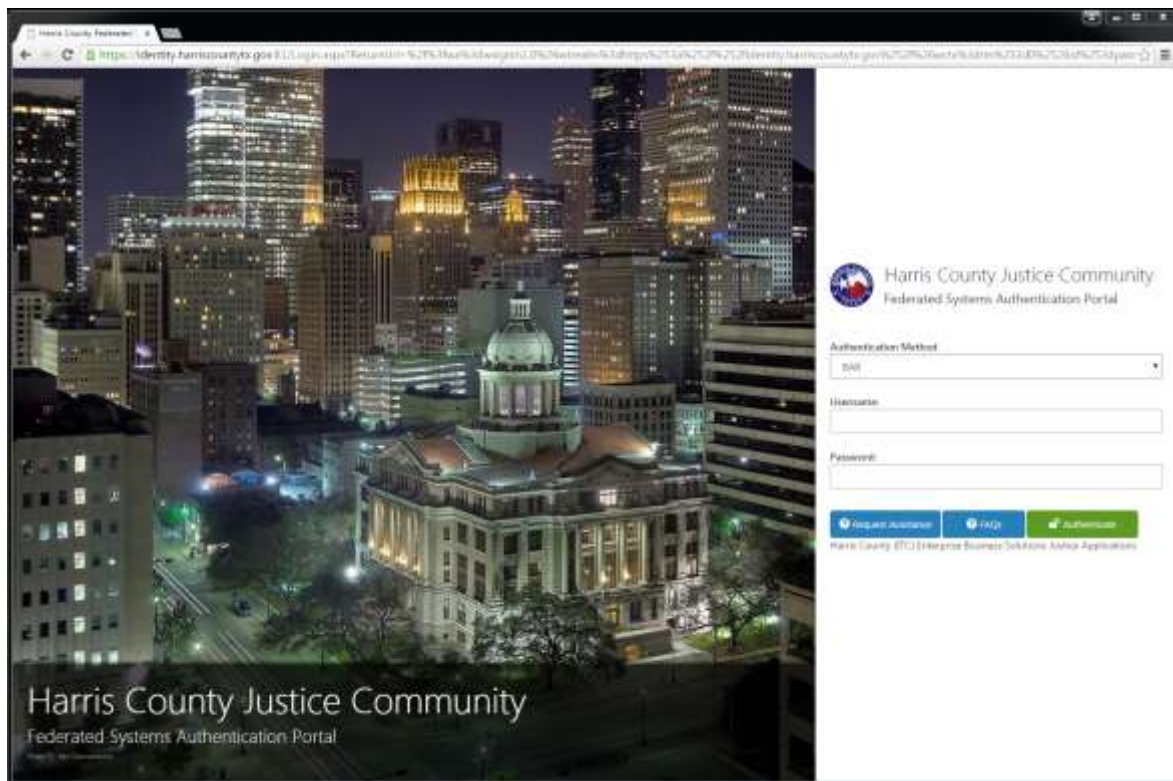


## User Guide

### ➤ **Signing in**

You will access ViPS via a new Attorney Portal site. Open your internet browser and enter [aty.harriscountytexas.gov/ViPS](https://aty.harriscountytexas.gov/ViPS) in the address bar (do not include www).

This will take you to the Authentication Portal where you will need to log in to the application.



**Authentication Method:** set to “BAR”

**Username:** Enter your Bar Number (all 8 digits including any leading zeros)

**Password:** Enter your Password

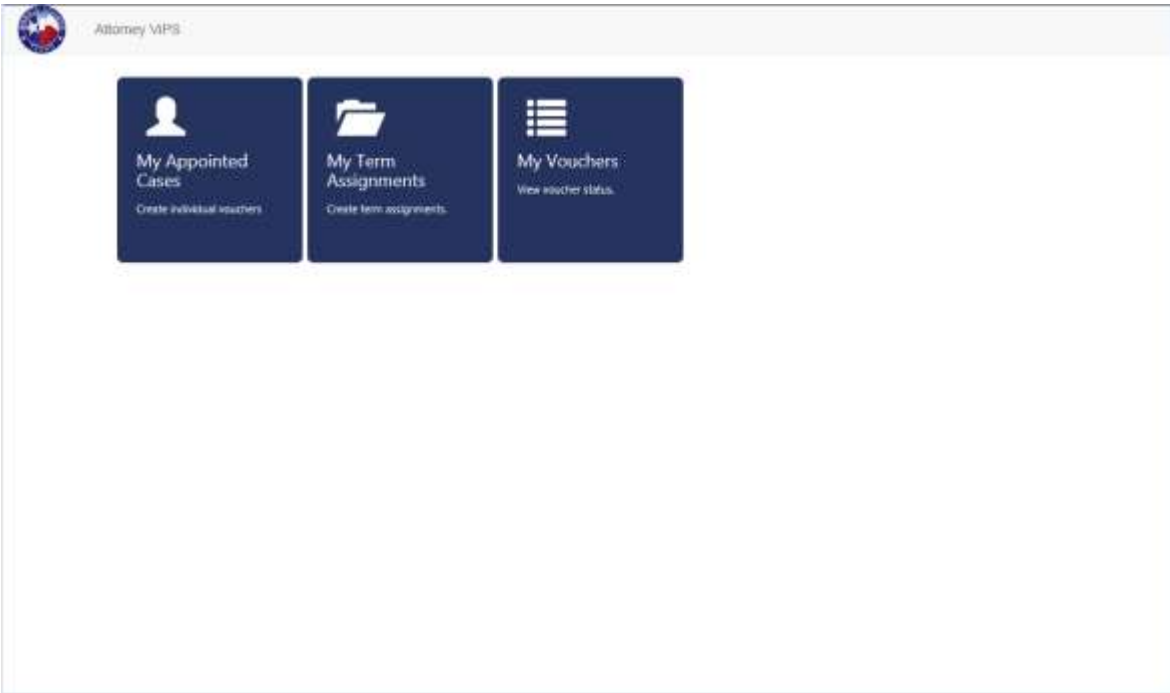
Click on the **Authenticate** button to log into the application. The first page displayed will be the ViPS Main Menu.



## ➤ **ViPS Main Menu**

The ViPS Main Menu is a landing spot that provides access to the different functional areas of the application.

- **My Appointed Cases** is used to create Individual Case Appointment vouchers.
- **My Term Assignments** is used to create your Term Assignment Vouchers.
- **My Vouchers** is used to track your draft and submitted Vouchers.

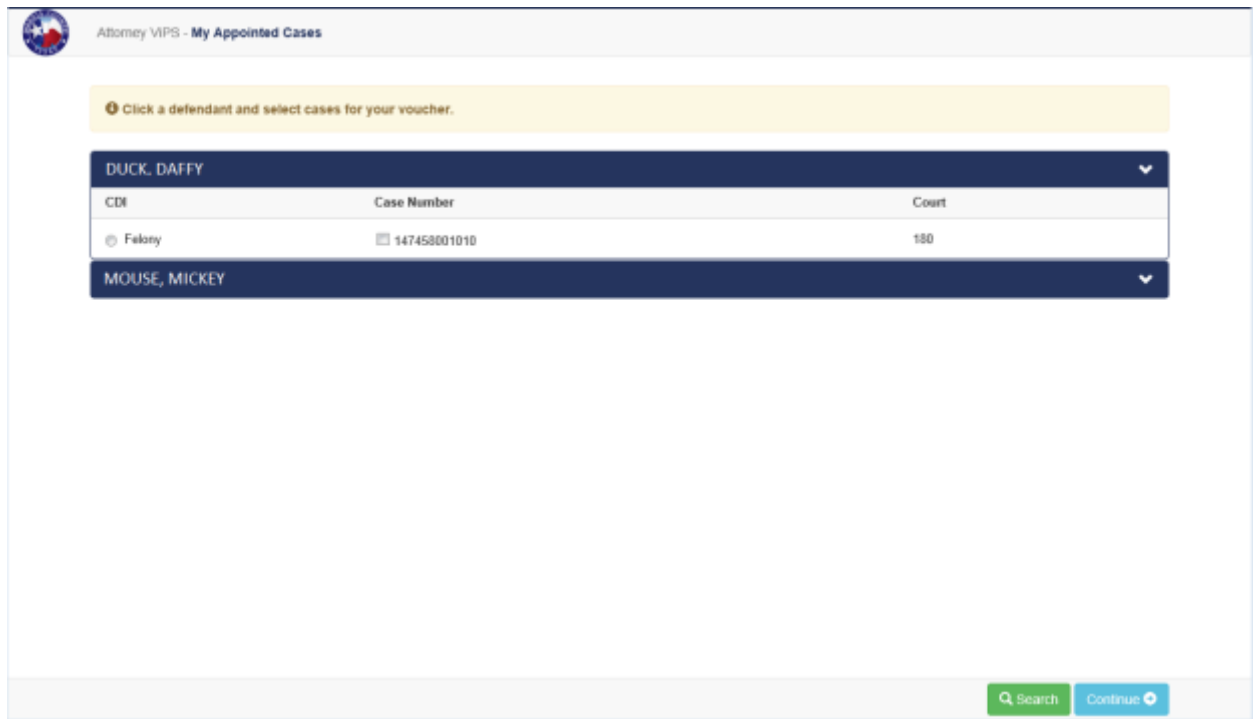




## ➤ My Appointed Cases

The My Appointed Cases page provides a listing of your defendants/cases that may be pending a voucher. Initially the data may not be very helpful since we are using historical data, but as you continue to use ViPS this data should become much more timely and beneficial.

The defendants are listed in alphabetical sequence. The first defendant in the list is expanded to show their cases. You may scroll through the list to locate the defendant that you would like to create a voucher for. Once you locate that defendant, click on their name. This will expand the defendant to show a list of their cases.



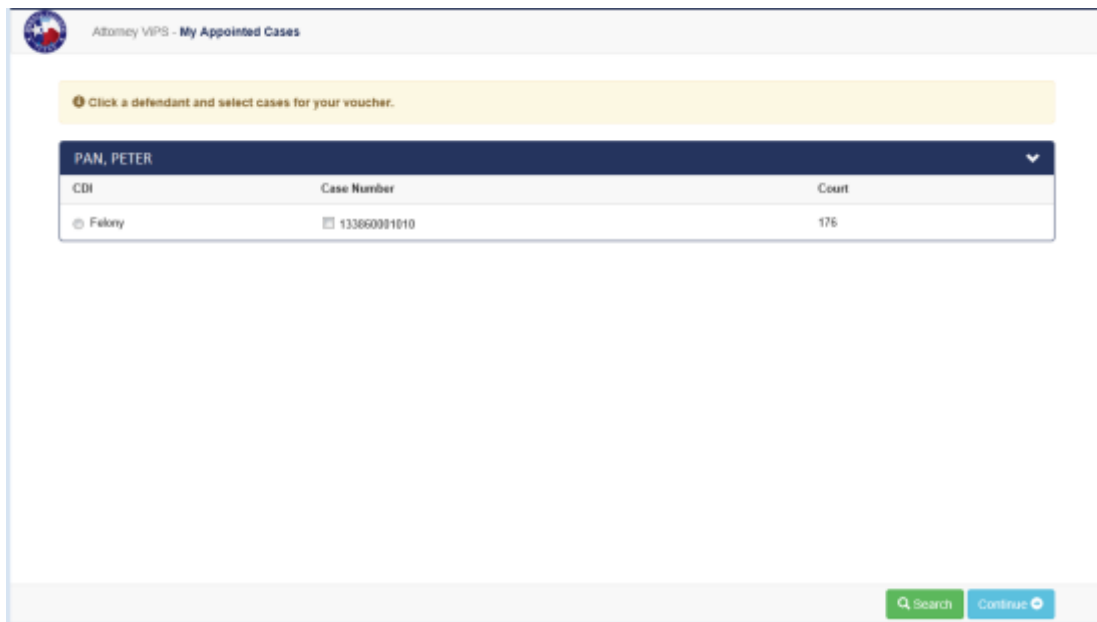
Once you have located your defendant and expanded their case listing, you can then make your case(s) selection. You may click on the radio button in front of the court division (i.e. Felony) to select all cases within that division or you can select case(s) individually by clicking on the checkbox in front of each case.

When you are finished selecting your case(s), then click on the **Continue** button at the bottom of the page.

As mentioned above, the cases listed are the application's attempt to determine what cases you may want to submit a voucher for instead of displaying all cases that you have ever been appointed to. There will be times where the case that you are looking for is not in the list. When this occurs you can use the Search feature to find that case. To do this, click on the **Search** button at the bottom right hand side of the page.



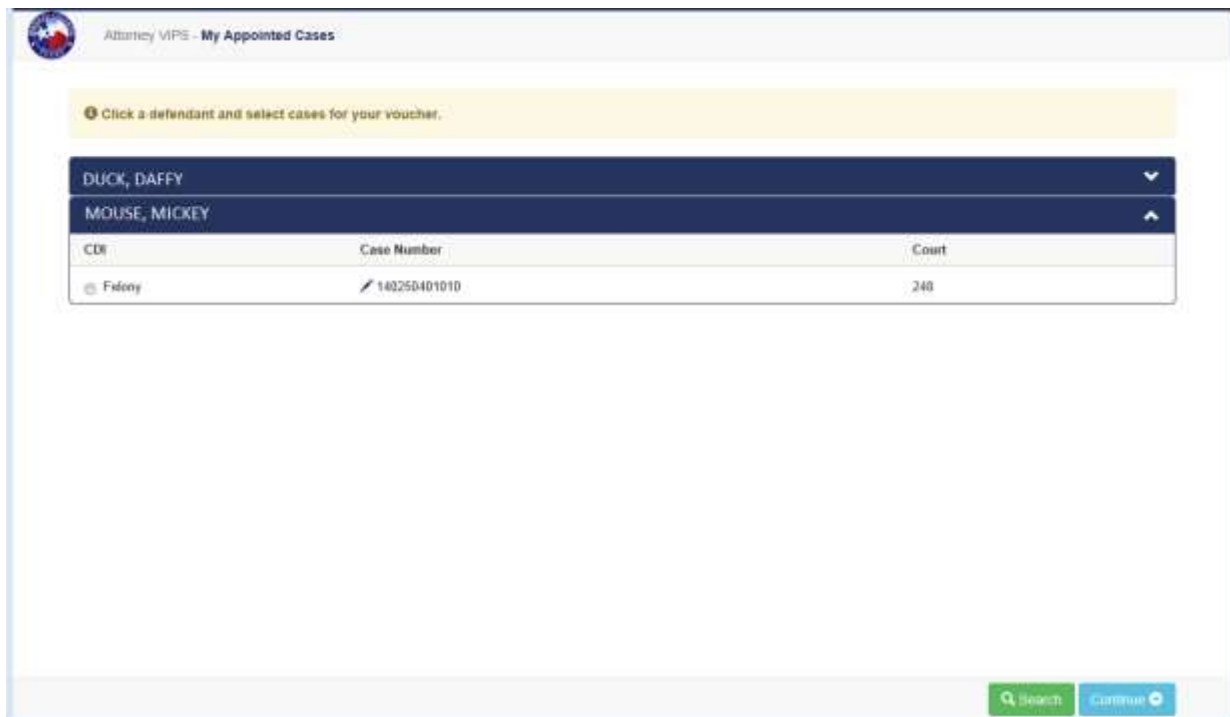
The Search feature will allow you to search for cases based on Defendant Name, Defendant SPN, or a Case Number. Currently, only the Case Number search is active. Enter the Case Number in the **Case/Cause Number** field and then click on the **Ok** button. The resulting page will then display the defendant and case(s) that match those criteria.





The application allows you to start a voucher and then come back later to finish entering the data and print it. Once you start a voucher it is put into a status of 'Draft'. While a voucher is in Draft status you may change and add data to the voucher. Once you submit a voucher then you may no longer make any changes to it.

If a case is attached to a voucher that is in Draft status, then you cannot start a new voucher for that case. You must complete and submit the existing draft voucher. Once the draft voucher has been submitted then a new voucher can be created for that case. On the My Appointed Cases page you can identify that a draft voucher exists for a case by the appearance of a pencil icon in front of the case number instead of the normal checkbox. Clicking on the pencil icon will allow you to edit that existing draft voucher. The page flow will be the same as with a new voucher. The pages will display the data that has previously been entered for that voucher.





## ➤ Select Settings

After selecting your case(s) and clicking on the **Continue** button, the application will navigate to the Select Setting Dates page. This page will list all of the past settings for the case(s) that are attached to the voucher. This page is used to include settings on the voucher and to indicate what event occurred on that setting. If the event is paid by the hour instead of by the day, then you will be able to indicate the amount of time spent on that setting event. (Note: for the voucher used as an example in this user guide there are no setting events that are paid by the hour so this column will not be used)

Setting Dates	Setting Reason	Event	Duration
<input type="checkbox"/> 05/29/2014	JURY TRIAL	TRIAL, Second Degree	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 05/29/2014	JURY TRIAL	TRIAL, Second Degree	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 05/27/2014	JURY TRIAL	TRIAL, Second Degree	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 02/03/2014	DCM COMPREHENSIVE PRETRIAL CONFERENCE	Please Select	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 01/29/2014	DCM COMPREHENSIVE PRETRIAL CONFERENCE	Please Select	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 01/03/2014	DCM COMPREHENSIVE PRETRIAL CONFERENCE	Please Select	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 01/02/2014	DCM EVIDENCE EXCHANGE	Please Select	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 10/29/2013	DCM CONSULTATION SETTING	PRE-TRIAL HEARING WITH TEST	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

On this page, as well as all subsequent pages in this process flow, there is an icon in the upper right hand corner that allows you to navigate back to the My Appointed Cases page.

Some settings that are displayed will not be selectable. As you can see in the screen capture above, several of the settings are grayed out and are not selectable. If there is an icon under the Duration column, it will indicate the reason the setting has been disabled. If you hover your mouse pointer over this icon then verbiage will be displayed that will explain the reason. There are a few reasons why Settings are not selectable. Some of the more common reasons are:

- The setting has already been included on a previously submitted voucher. In the example above the first three Settings show this. You can tell they have been previously submitted on a voucher since there is an entry in the Event column.



- Our Court Management system indicates that the attorney was not present for that setting and therefore cannot be paid for the setting. (The screen capture above shows this situation on the 5<sup>th</sup> setting in the list.)
- The setting was for multiple cases for the same defendant. Once the setting has been selected for one of the cases, then the setting cannot be selected on the other case(s).
- For District Courts there is a limit of 4 setting per day. You have already reached that limit and cannot select any additional settings for that day. (Not implemented at this time)

To include a setting on the voucher click the checkbox in front of the setting date. Then indicate the event that occurred during that setting by selecting the appropriate item from the event drop down list. Refer to the offense degree of the case that is displayed in the header line after the case number to help you identify the appropriate degree to select for the event.

Setting Dates	Setting Reason	Event	Duration
<input type="checkbox"/> 05/29/2014	JURY TRIAL	TRIAL, Second Degree	
<input type="checkbox"/> 05/28/2014	JURY TRIAL	TRIAL, Second Degree	
<input type="checkbox"/> 05/27/2014	JURY TRIAL	TRIAL, Second Degree	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 02/03/2014	DCM COMPREHENSIVE PRETRIAL CONFERENCE	Please Select	
<input type="checkbox"/> 01/28/2014	DCM COMPREHENSIVE PRETRIAL CONFERENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 01/03/2014	DCM COMPREHENSIVE PRETRIAL CONFERENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 01/02/2014	DCM EVIDENCE EXCHANGE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 10/29/2013	DCM CONSULTATION SETTING	PRE-TRIAL HEARING WITH TESTI	

Select all setting events that you would like to include on the voucher.





Setting Dates	Setting Reason	Event	Duration
<input type="checkbox"/> 05/29/2014	JURY TRIAL	TRIAL, Second Degree	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 05/28/2014	JURY TRIAL	TRIAL, Second Degree	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 05/27/2014	JURY TRIAL	TRIAL, Second Degree	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 02/03/2014	DCM COMPREHENSIVE PRETRIAL CONFERENCE	PRE-TRIAL HEARING WITH TEST	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 01/28/2014	DCM COMPREHENSIVE PRETRIAL CONFERENCE	Please Select	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 01/03/2014	DCM COMPREHENSIVE PRETRIAL CONFERENCE	PRE-TRIAL HEARING WITH TEST	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 01/02/2014	DCM EVIDENCE EXCHANGE	NON-TRIAL Second Degree	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 10/29/2013	DCM CONSULTATION SETTING	PRE-TRIAL HEARING WITH TEST	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

The **Save** button at the bottom right hand side of the page will save your data in ViPS and provides the ability to save the data and then return back later to finish out your voucher.



Once you are finished selecting settings and events then click on the **Continue** button at the bottom right hand side of the page. This will save your data and will navigate to the next page in the process flow.





## ➤ Generate Voucher

After selecting your setting events and pressing the **Continue** button, the application will navigate to the Generate Voucher page. This page is a summary page for all of your voucher entries.

The main display table on the page lists all of the line items that are defined for your voucher. The line items in gray indicate items that must be entered/updated on a different page in the process flow. The line items in white can be entered/updated on this page.

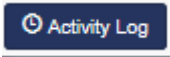
Event	Duration	Dates	Amount
NON-TRIAL First Degree			
NON-TRIAL Second Degree	1 Day(s)	01/02/2014	
NON-TRIAL Third Degree, SJF, MRPMAJ			
TRIAL First Degree			
TRIAL Second Degree			
TRIAL Third Degree, SJF, MRPMAJ			
PRE-TRIAL HEARING WITH TESTIMONY & PSI HEARING	2 Day(s)	02/03/2014 01/03/2014	
OUT OF COURT HOURS First Degree			
OUT OF COURT HOURS Second Degree			
OUT OF COURT HOURS Third Degree, SJF, MRPMAJ			
INVESTIGATION HOURS			
INVESTIGATION OTHER EXPENSES			\$ <input type="text"/>
EXPERT			\$ <input type="text"/>
BILINGUAL SUPPLEMENT			<input type="checkbox"/>
OTHER			\$ <input type="text"/>

You will notice in the above screen capture that the setting events that you entered on the previous page are summarized here showing the total number of days for each setting event as well as the dates that they occurred on. If you would like to update the information on these items, click on the **Previous** button to navigate back to the Select Setting Dates page.





Other line items that appear in gray are Out of Court Hours and Investigation Hours. These items are entered/updated via the Activity Log page. Click on the **Activity Log** button at the bottom left hand side of the page to navigate to the Activity Log page.



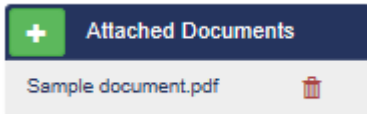
The items in white can be updated on this page. For Investigation Other Expenses, Expert, and Other line items you can enter the total dollar amount for these expenses. For Bilingual Supplement you will click on the checkbox that is to the right of the description if this supplement should be applied to the voucher. When checked the application will automatically calculate the number of unique setting days and include them on the voucher. The number of days will not appear on the page right away after checking the box, it will appear after the data is saved.

INVESTIGATION OTHER EXPENSES	\$ 25.00
EXPERT	\$ 800.00
BILINGUAL SUPPLEMENT	3 Day(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
OTHER	\$ 125.00

Certain voucher line items require supporting information (invoices, receipts, etc.) to be included with and attached to the voucher. This can be done by utilizing the Attached Documents table in the upper right hand side of this page. The green button with the white plus sign is used to upload and attach a document to the voucher. Documents need to be in a PDF file format.



After they are attached then the documents will be listed in the table with the same name as the original file. Following the document name will be a red trash can icon. You can click on the red trash can icon to remove the document from the voucher. You will be asked to confirm that you do want to delete the document. You can click on the document name to open the document for review.



The **Save** button at the bottom of the page will save your data in ViPS and provides the ability to save the data and then return back later to finish out your voucher.



Once you have reviewed the information on the page and feel it is correct then you can then proceed to submit your voucher packet. Click on the **Submit Voucher** button in the lower right hand corner of the page. This will navigate to the Pre-Certification page.

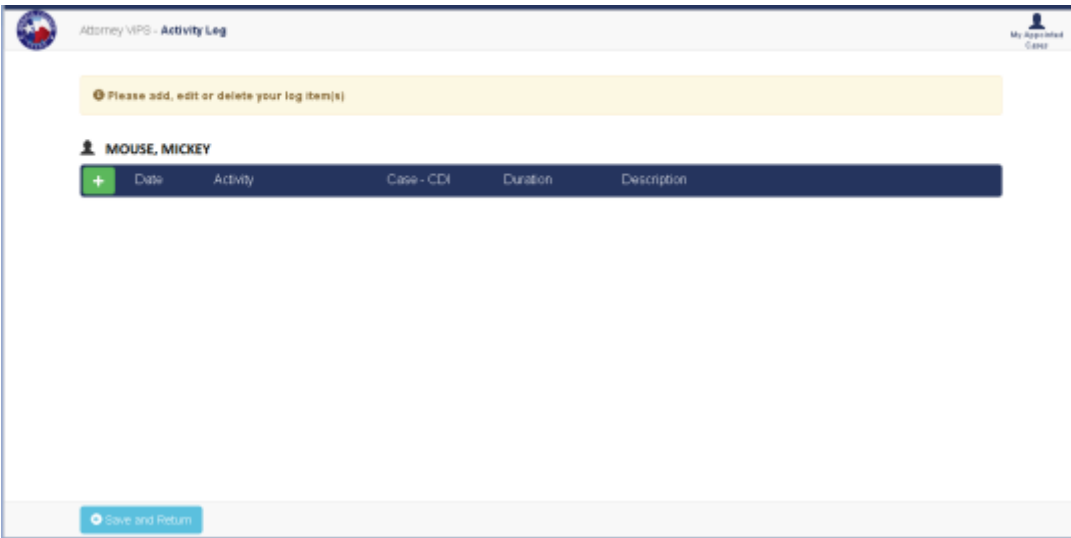




## ➤ Activity Log

This page is used to add information for line items on the voucher. These are things such as Out of Court Hours, Investigator Hours, etc. You access this page via the Activity Log button on the Generate Voucher page.

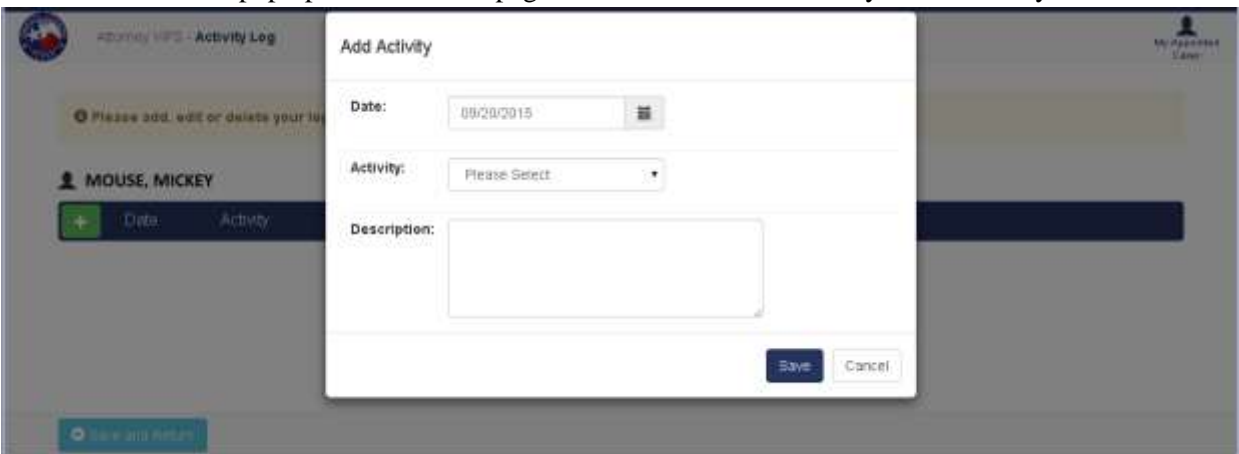
When you come to this page for the first time on a voucher, there will not be any activity items displayed.



Use the green button with the white plus sign to add an entry to the Activity Log.



A window will then pop up over the main page that will allow for the entry of the activity.





In the pop up window start filling out the information about the activity by entering the **Date** and selecting the **Activity** from the options in the drop down list. Once the Activity is selected then other data entry fields such as **Case Number** and **Duration** (HH:mm) may appear in the window. Once you are finished entering the Activity information click on the **Save** button in the lower right hand corner of the window. You will then be returned to the Activity Log page and the activity that you just entered will be added to the list.

In front of the activity is a green icon with a white pencil. You can click on this icon to edit the information for the Activity. At the end of the Activity is a red trash can icon. You can click on this icon to delete the Activity from the list.



You can add as many Activities as you need for this voucher.



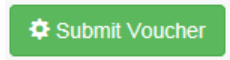
Once you are finished entering Activities then press the **Save and Return** button in the lower left hand corner of the page to return to the Generate Voucher page. When you return to that page you will notice that the data from the Activity Log now appears in the appropriate areas on the voucher.



OUT OF COURT HOURS First Degree	
OUT OF COURT HOURS Second Degree	2.6 Hour(s)
OUT OF COURT HOURS Third Degree, SJF, MRP/MAJ	
INVESTIGATION HOURS	4.2 Hour(s)

Note that when you are entering the duration for an Activity you will enter it as hours and minutes. The application allows you to enter the minutes in increments of 6 minutes (a tenth of an hour). On the Generate Voucher page the application will accumulate the total amount of time and then will display it as a total number of hours down to one decimal point.

Once you have reviewed the information on the page and feel it is correct then you can then proceed to submit your voucher packet. From the Generate Voucher page click on the **Submit Voucher** button which is located in the lower right hand corner. This will navigate to the Pre-Certification page.





## ➤ Pre-Certification

This page is the next step in the process flow to create an Individual Case Appointment Voucher. This page is accessed by clicking on the Submit Voucher button on the Generate Voucher page.

A screenshot of a web application interface. At the top left is the Harris County Texas logo. To its right, the text "Attorney VIPS - Certification and Filing" is displayed. The main content area features the heading "FEE EXPENSE CLAIM FINALIZATION OR SUBMISSION" in bold, underlined text. Below this heading is the instruction: "If this ATTORNEY FEES EXPENSE CLAIM is final and ready for submission, please proceed to Certification." At the bottom of the page, there are two buttons: a red button with a left-pointing arrow and the text "Previous", and a green button with a star icon and the text "Certification".

Clicking on the Previous button will return you to the Generate Voucher page.



Clicking on the Certification button will navigate you to the next step in the Voucher submission process, the Certification page.







## ➤ Certification

This page is the last step in the process flow to create an Individual Case Appointment Voucher. This page is accessed by clicking on the Certification button on the Pre-Certification page.

The application will place your name and bar number in the signature line of this page. This will be your electronic signature for use on the Voucher.

Clicking on the Cancel button will return you to the Generate Voucher page.




Clicking on the I Affirm button will electronically submit your voucher to the District Clerks office for filing. You will then be navigated back to the My Appointed Cases page so that you can start working on another voucher.





Example of an Individual Case Appointment voucher:

 00006917		County Auditor's Form 40-1BV Harris County, TX (REV. 09/14/2015) <b>ATTORNEY FEES EXPENSE CLAIM</b> <b>DISTRICT COURTS-COURT APPEARANCE</b> UNDER ARTICLE 26.05, CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE AS AMENDED			
<b>Court No.</b> 248		<b>Defendant Name</b> MOUSE, MICKEY		<b>Case Number(s) - Charge(s)</b> 140250401010 - TAMPER GOVT RECORD	
<b>INDIVIDUAL CASE APPOINTMENT</b>			<b>No. of Court Days/Hours</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Total (presumptive max)</b>
NON-TRIAL	First Degree			\$225/day	\$1125*
	Second Degree		1	\$175/day	\$875*
	Third Degree, SJF, MRP/MAJ			\$125/day	\$625*
TRIAL	First Degree			\$500/day	
	Second Degree		3	\$400/day	\$1,200.00
	Third Degree, SJF, MRP/MAJ			\$300/day	
PRE-TRIAL HEARING WITH TESTIMONY & PSI HEARING			1	\$350/day	\$350.00
OUT OF COURT HOURS	First Degree			\$85/hour	\$1700
	Second Degree		1.5	\$60/hour	\$600
	Third Degree, SJF, MRP/MAJ			\$40/hour	\$400
INVESTIGATION HOURS			4.2	\$40/hour	\$600/case
INVESTIGATION OTHER EXPENSES					\$500.00
EXPERT					\$650/case
BILINGUAL SUPPLEMENT				\$50/day	\$250
OTHER					\$200.00
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>\$2,883.00</b>
*The presumptive maximum number of non-trial settings beyond a term assignment is four.					
Court Appearance(s) : 05/29/2014, 05/28/2014, 05/27/2014, 10/29/2013, 09/27/2013					
<b>PERSONAL INFORMATION</b>					
<b>Attorney Name</b> JOHN DOE			<b>Telephone Number</b> 713-555-1212		<b>Bar Card Number</b> 99999999
<b>Mailing Address</b> 123 OAK STREET HOUSTON, TX 77002					
<b>CERTIFICATION</b>					
I swear or affirm that the Harris County Auditor may rely upon the information contained in this ATTORNEY FEES EXPENSE CLAIM to make payment according to the fee schedule adopted by the Board of District Judges Trying Criminal Cases pursuant to Tex. Code Crim. P. art. 26.05. I further swear or affirm that I have not received nor will I receive anything of value for representing the accused, except as otherwise disclosed to the Court in writing.					
<u>/s/ DOE, JOHN</u> <u>Bar# 99999999</u> Attorney at Law (Signature)					
The above fees, including any fees which exceed the presumptive maximum fees set forth herein were reviewed by this court and determined to be both reasonable and necessary and are hereby approved for payment.					
Approved _____ Judge Presiding					



Example of the Activity Log that will be included, if applicable, in the Exhibits/Attachments document.

<u>Court Number</u> 248	<u>Defendant's Name</u> MOUSE, MICKEY	<u>County Auditor's Form 40-1LV</u> Harris County, Texas (7/13/2015)		
<b>Investigation</b>				
<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Case</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Description</u>
09/19/2015	Investigator Time	140250401010-003	04:12 (HH:mm)	
Total Investigation Hours: 4.2				
<b>Out of Court Activities</b>				
<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Case</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Description</u>
09/19/2015	Jail Visit	140250401010-003	01:30 (HH:mm)	
Total Out of Court Activities Hours: 1.5				



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## ➤ **Other Helpful Information**

The Harris County logo in the upper left hand corner of the page provides an easy way to return to the ViPS Main Menu from almost all of the pages in the application. Just click on the logo and you will be returned to the Main Menu page.

If you are on a data entry page and attempt to navigate away from the page without saving your changes first, the application will pop up a window informing you that if you continue with your navigation that unsaved data will be lost. You will have the option to either continue with the navigation and lose those unsaved changes or to return to your page where you can then save those changes.

The application monitors for inactivity and will automatically log you out after 20 minutes of inactivity. You will need to log in again to continue your work.

There is no Log Out functionality needed for the application. When you are finished using ViPS you can just close your browser window.