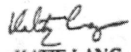


FILED

LOCAL RULES

JAN 10 2023

STATUTORY COUNTY COURT AT LAW


**KATIE LANG
CLERK COUNTY COURT
AT LAW, HOOD COUNTY TX**

HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

Adopted by Order dated January 10, 2023



RICHARD L. HATTOX, HOOD COUNTY COURT AT LAW JUDGE

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INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the authority granted County Courts at Law under Rules 3a, T.R.C.P. and Art. 33.08, C.C.P., to promulgate Rules of Practice for conducting the business of County Courts at Law, the rules, suggestions and procedures set out below will be in effect in this Court unless subsequently modified, changed, or amended.

A copy of these rules are filed with County Clerk of this Court and are available to all persons and attorneys having litigation in this Court. A copy of these rules may also be downloaded from the Court's web site at <http://www.co.hood.tx.us/countycourtatlaw.htm>

These rules are promulgated for the benefit of the Court, the Court personnel, attorneys and litigants having matters before the Court, and are adopted for the purpose of establishing and maintaining an orderly, dignified and expeditious procedure for handling and conducting the Court's business.

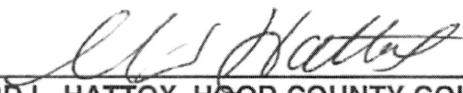
As County Court at Law Judge, I have freely used desirable court rules written by other Judges, and I acknowledge those contributions. In order to effectuate the purpose of these local rules as set forth above, I solicit the comment, suggestions and even criticism from members of the bar practicing in Hood County, Texas, so that all of the rules of the Court will be workable and helpful in disposing of cases as expeditiously as possible and with as little inconvenience as possible to any party litigant or their attorneys.

ORDER ADOPTING RULES

It is ordered by the County Court at Law Judge of Hood County, Texas, that:

1. The following rules of practice and procedure are adopted;
2. The Clerk of this Court in Hood County, Texas, record these rules and this Order in the minutes of this Court;
3. A copy of these rules and this Order be furnished to the Supreme Court of Texas;
4. The Clerk of the Court deliver immediately to each lawyer residing or maintaining an office within Hood County, Texas, a copy of these rules and this Order; and to each lawyer and pro se party appearing in any civil action in this Court;
5. These rules shall be construed and interpreted, in addition to, in conformity with and not as superseding the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas or the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure or the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure;
6. Should any of these rules, or any part thereof be held invalid for any reason, such invalidity shall not affect the validity of the other rules or parts of rules, all of which have been separately considered and adopted;
7. These rules shall be effective on January 10, 2023, and thereafter until amended, modified, or repealed by Order of the Court.

ORDERED this 10th day of January, 2023.



RICHARD L. HATTOX, HOOD COUNTY COURT AT LAW JUDGE

**HOOD COUNTY
LOCAL RULES OF PRACTICE OF THE
STATUTORY COUNTY COURT AT LAW**

TITLE 1. RULES GOVERNING ALL PROCEEDINGS

RULE 1.1 CONDUCT AND COURTROOM DECORUM

a. Policy

Judges and attorneys have a duty to uphold the highest standards of conduct and to earn and promote public respect for the judiciary, the legal profession and the American system of justice.

b. The Texas Lawyer's Creed

The Standards of Professional Conduct in Section IV of The Texas Lawyer's Creed, as promulgated by the Texas Supreme Court and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals are adopted and incorporated herein by reference as guidelines for participating in litigation in the Statutory County Court at Law of Hood County.

c. Conduct Required of Counsel

1. Counsel shall timely appear before the court at each setting and following each recess.
2. Counsel shall be appropriately attired for all court proceedings. Male attorneys shall be dressed neatly in business suits or sportcoats, with appropriately contrasting slacks, dress shirt and tie. The shirt collar shall be buttoned. Resort wear, sportswear, bluejeans and similar clothing are not considered appropriate courtroom attire. Female attorneys shall be dressed in conservative dress or business attire. Jumpsuits, resort wear, sportswear, bluejeans and similar clothing are not considered appropriate courtroom attire.
3. Counsel shall rise and remain standing while addressing the Court.
4. Counsel shall address all statements, requests and objections to the Court and not to opposing counsel.
5. Counsel shall not argue objections in the presence of the jury without prior leave of court.

6. Counsel shall not interrupt or talk over opposing counsel, except to state formal objections.
7. Counsel shall remain behind counsel table while examining witnesses. If requested by counsel, counsel may stand at a podium while examining witnesses.
8. Counsel shall neither make nor insinuate derogatory or insulting remarks about opposing counsel.
9. Counsel shall address the Court as "Your Honor" or "Judge" and except with leave of court, shall refer to all counsel, parties and witnesses (except children) by their surnames, using such titles as Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., etc., as appropriate, and not by first names or nicknames, or any discriminatory or inappropriate classification.
10. Counsel shall neither exit nor enter the bar while court is in session without prior permission of the Court or the bailiff.
11. Counsel shall request leave of court before approaching the bench or to approach the witness when necessary to work with documentary or tangible evidence.
12. Counsel shall not lean on the bench except as may be necessary to prevent jurors from overhearing bench conferences. Counsel shall not engage in personal discussions with the Court or each other during trial while in the presence of jurors, parties, or witnesses.
13. Counsel shall advise counsel's clients, witnesses and others subject to counsel's control of these rules of conduct and courtroom decorum.

d. Conduct Required of All Persons

All persons in the courtroom during trials and other proceedings shall be attentive to the proceedings and shall refrain from any action which may disrupt the proceedings. Therefore, all persons shall comply with the following:

1. All persons shall be appropriately attired for court proceedings. All persons entering the courtroom shall be dressed in clothing reasonably befitting the dignity and solemnity of court proceedings. Tank tops, T-shirts, shorts, thongs, and clothing that is tattered or soiled are among those items of clothing not considered appropriate courtroom attire. No hats, caps or sunglasses shall be worn in the courtroom.
2. No tobacco use in any form is permitted.

3. No bottles, beverage containers, paper cups or edibles are allowed in the courtroom, except as permitted by the Court.
4. No gum chewing is permitted.
5. No reading of newspapers, books, or magazines is permitted.
6. No propping of feet on tables or chairs is permitted.
7. No talking or unnecessary noise is permitted which interferes with the court proceeding.
8. No person may, by facial expressions, shaking or nodding of the head, or by any other conduct, express approval or disapproval of any testimony, statement or transaction in the courtroom.
9. All persons shall rise when the judge enters the courtroom, and at such other times as the bailiff shall instruct.
10. No person shall bring packages, suitcases, boxes, duffel bags, shopping bags or containers into the courtroom without the prior approval of the bailiff.
11. No person shall be permitted any verbal or physical contact with a prisoner without the prior approval of the bailiff.
12. No person shall bring radios, tape recorders, MP3 players, computers, cameras or other electronic devices into the courtroom unless the device is required for the court proceeding and prior approval has been given by the Court.
13. Cellular telephones and pagers are permitted in the Courtroom but MUST be turned to the "Silent" or "Vibrate" position before entering the Courtroom.

e. Enforcement

The bailiff of the court shall enforce the rules of conduct and courtroom decorum. Violation of the above rules will be subject the offender to a fine not to exceed \$100.00.

RULE 1.2. REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE OR POSTPONEMENT

a. Consent or Notice Required

No request for a continuance, to pass, postpone or reset any trial, pretrial, or other hearing shall be granted unless counsel for all parties consent, or unless all parties not joining in such request have been notified and have had an opportunity to object. The Court retains the right to deny any request for a continuance, a

pass, or postponement of any trial, pretrial or hearing, whether agreed to or not.

b. Contents of Motion

Unless counsel for all parties consent in writing to the request for a continuance and the same is approved by the Court, a motion must be filed pursuant to Rule 251, et seq. of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, as amended or Article 29.01, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, as applicable, and the motion must be accompanied by an order setting the motion for a hearing. Any motion that does not meet these requirements will be denied without prejudice to the right to refile.

RULE 1.3. CONFLICT IN TRIAL SETTINGS

a. Duty of Counsel to Notify Court

Whenever an attorney has two or more cases on trial dockets for trial at the same time, it shall be the duty of the attorney to bring the matter to the attention of the courts concerned immediately upon learning of the conflicting settings.

b. Priority of Cases in Event of Conflict

Insofar as practicable, the affected courts shall attempt to agree upon which case shall have priority. Absent such agreement, conflicting trial settings shall be resolved in the following priority:

1. Federal cases
2. Temporary injunctions
3. Criminal cases against defendants who are detained in jail pending trial
4. Cases given statutory preference
5. Preferentially set cases, other than those given statutory preference
6. The earliest set case

TITLE 2. RULES GOVERNING CIVIL PROCEEDINGS

RULE 2.1. APPLICATION FOR EX PARTE ORDERS (EXCLUDING FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTIVE ORDERS AND DOMESTIC TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDERS)

Counsel presenting any application for an ex parte order shall, at the time the application is presented to the Court, certify in writing that:

- a. to the best of counsel's knowledge, the party against whom the relief is sought is not represented by counsel; or
- b. if the party against whom the relief is sought is represented by counsel, that (i) such counsel has been notified of the application and does not wish to be heard by the Court thereon; or (ii) counsel presenting the application has diligently attempted to notify opposing counsel, has been unable to do so, and the circumstances do not permit additional efforts to give such notice.

RULE 2.2. PRETRIAL AND TRIAL SETTINGS

- a. At any time after the filing of an answer or entry of an appearance by the opposing party, any party may request a setting for a trial on the merits or, where applicable, a pretrial hearing, by (i) filing with the Court a motion requesting a hearing, and an order setting the hearing, accompanied by a certificate of service to opposing counsel; or (ii) orally requesting the Court to schedule the hearing and confirming the setting by letter addressed to the Court, a copy of which shall be served on opposing counsel in accordance with Rule 21a of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, as amended. All requests for a setting shall include an estimate of the amount of court time required for the hearing.
- b. Prior to requesting a setting, counsel shall attempt to coordinate a setting with opposing counsel.
- c. Should neither party request a pretrial hearing, the Court may, on its own motion, set a pretrial hearing on the case, notifying each attorney of record, or pro se party, in accordance with the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.
- d. All motions, motions in limine, dilatory pleas, exceptions, or amended pleadings must be filed at least thirty (30) days prior to trial and a copy forwarded to all opposing parties.
- e. Any party who expects to raise issues concerning the admissibility of expert witness testimony under T.R.E. 702 and Daubert v. Merrill Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc. must contact the Court Coordinator and request a hearing thereon at least ten (10) days prior to trial.

RULE 2.3. WITHDRAWAL OF COUNSEL

- a. Withdrawal

Withdrawal of counsel shall be governed by Rule 10 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, as amended, and the following rules.

- b. Notice to Client

If another attorney is not to be substituted as attorney for the party or if the party does not consent to the motion to withdraw, the withdrawing attorney shall notify the client in writing that the Court will be requested to sign an order granting the withdrawal on or after ten (10) days following the date of such notice. Notice shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, on all such motions a hearing is required, and the attorney requesting the motion must give their client reasonable notice of such hearing.

c. No Delay of Trial

Unless allowed in the discretion of the Court, no motion to withdraw shall be granted that is presented within thirty (30) days of the trial date or at such other time as to require a delay of trial.

RULE 2.4. ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

a. Policy

It shall be the policy of the County Court at Law, Hood County, Texas, to encourage the peaceable resolution of disputes and early settlement of pending litigation, including family law litigation, by referral to alternative dispute resolution (ADR) pursuant to the Texas Alternative Dispute Resolution Procedures Act, Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Chapter 154. In keeping with this policy, all civil and domestic cases announcing for two hours or more upon final hearing shall be required to be mediated prior to the final hearing of said case.

b. Manner of Referral

It is anticipated that the parties shall cooperate in referring such issues to an ADR procedure under terms and conditions as are mutually agreeable, without the need for court intervention. If the parties are unable to cooperate or agree to a referral of such issues to an ADR procedure, then upon written notification to the Court by one of the parties that efforts to coordinate a referral have been unsuccessful, the Court, without a hearing, shall enter an order of referral to an ADR procedure, and under such terms and conditions selected by the Court.

c. Objection to Referral

If the Court enters an order of referral to an ADR procedure, any party may object to such referral pursuant to Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Chapter 154. Upon the filing of an objection, the Court shall schedule a hearing. If the Court finds that there is a reasonable basis for the objection, the Court

may, in its discretion, order that the case not be referred to an ADR procedure and order the case set for trial on the merits.

RULE 2.5. DISMISSAL FOR WANT OF PROSECUTION

a. Procedure

The Court, on its own motion, may dismiss a case for want of prosecution. The procedure provided in Rule 165a of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, as amended, shall apply.

b. Reasons for Dismissal

A case may be dismissed for want of prosecution for any of the following reasons:

1. Failure of a party seeking affirmative relief to take appropriate action when the case has been pending without action for six months.
2. Failure of counsel for a party seeking affirmative relief to appear for a pretrial or preliminary hearing, particularly if there has been a previous failure to appear or no motion has been timely filed to meet the exceptions previously sustained.
3. Failure of a party seeking affirmative relief to make an announcement as scheduled when the case has been set for trial.

RULE 2.6. ORDERS AND DECREES

a. Reduction to Writing Within Thirty (30) Days

Within thirty (30) days after rendition, announcement of the Court's ruling or announcement of settlement by counsel, counsel shall cause all judgments, decrees or orders of any kind to be reduced to writing, forwarded to opposing counsel for approval as to form, and delivered to the Court for signing.

b. Dismissal if Written Order Not Furnished

Upon failure to furnish the Court with a judgment, order or decree disposing of the case within the thirty (30) day period, the Court shall place the case on the next regularly scheduled dismissal docket, whereupon the case may be dismissed and costs may be taxed at the Court's discretion.

c. Procedure for Entry of Order

If counsel is unable to secure all opposing counsel's approval as to form, counsel may:

1. File a motion for entry of the proposed judgment, order or decree and secure a hearing for the same, with notice to all opposing counsel pursuant to Rule 21a, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure. At a hearing, the Court may assess costs and attorney's fees within the Court's discretion; or
2. Present the Court with the proposed judgment, decree or order, together with a letter requesting the Court to sign the same if the Court has not received a written objection from opposing council within ten (10) days from the date of the letter. Each party who submits a proposed judgment for signature shall serve the proposed judgment and a copy of the letter on all other parties who have appeared and remain in the case, in accordance with Rule 21a, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure. If the Court receives a written objection from opposing counsel within the stated time, the proponent of the judgment, decree or order shall schedule a hearing for entry of the same pursuant to subdivision 1 of this rule.

TITLE 3. RULES GOVERNING CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS IN COUNTY COURT AT LAW, HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

RULE 3.1. ARRAIGNMENT

After the charging instrument is filed, all defendants, their attorneys and bonds persons shall be notified and are required to appear for the defendant's formal arraignment.

a. Waivers

A waiver of arraignment is allowed, only when filed by a defendant's attorney after or contemporaneously with a written notice of representation filed in the cause by the attorney of record. In the event legal counsel is retained or appointed immediately prior to the arraignment hearing, a fax copy of the waiver will be accepted by the Court Coordinator for the purposes of removing a case from the arraignment docket.

However, fax copies ARE NOT accepted by the Clerk's office as being official filings of record. All original waivers must be received in the Clerk's office within three (3) business days of the date of the arraignment hearing. Original waivers not received in this fashion will result in a Defendant's bond being declared insufficient and a warrant

issued for their arrest. It is the attorney's responsibility to make sure that the original waiver is forwarded to the Clerk's office.

RULE 3.2. SCHEDULING OF PLEAS

a. Guilty Plea Memorandum, Plea Hearing Settings

It is the policy of the Hood County Court at Law that criminal plea offers are to be handled as follows:

1. Each criminal file shall contain the standard plea offer for each case.
2. The Hood County Attorney's office has an "open file" policy. Defense counsel may view the offer in the file, and will be provided discovery in accordance with the discovery rules set out below and the discovery order attached.
3. If further plea negotiations are conducted; and the standard offer is altered by a prosecutor, the plea offer must be agreed upon and documented in the State's file before the case is moved to a plea docket;
4. If a case is moved to a plea docket without the renegotiation of the standard plea offer with the prosecutor's office, **the standard plea offer is the State's final offer and becomes the State's recommendation to the Court.**
5. **Absent unusual/exigent circumstances**, the State will not revisit the file for the purposes of negotiating the offer once a case has been moved to a plea docket.
6. Once the prosecutor's office and defense counsel have negotiated and reached an agreement on a plea offer, defense counsel should contact the Court Coordinator to obtain a plea setting.

It is the policy of the Hood County Court at Law, that cases remaining on the Jury Trial Docket **after the Jury Announcement Docket** are to be handled as follows:

1. Any case remaining on the Court's Jury Trial Docket after the date of the Jury Announcement Docket must be set on a plea docket **before 5 p.m. on the Wednesday before the Monday on which the Jury Trial Docket is called**, or all State's offers will be withdrawn and **all pleas entered become open pleas to the Court.**

RULE 3.3. DUTIES OF COURT APPOINTED COUNSEL

All court appointed criminal defense counsel shall be required to adhere to the requirements of the Texas Fair Defense Act, and the following:

- a. Appear promptly at all times required by the Court.
- b. It shall be counsel's continuing duty to visit an incarcerated defendant regularly until the defendant's case is concluded. Counsel's continuing duty to visit the defendant in jail is not satisfied simply by accepting collect telephone calls from an incarcerated defendant. Counsel should be able to assure the trial court that counsel has devoted sufficient time to visit an incarcerated defendant should a dispute arise concerning counsel's fulfillment of this duty.
- c. Ensure that an incarcerated defendant is provided with appropriate attire for a jury trial. This provision shall not be construed to permit counsel to purchase clothing for a defendant without first seeking the approval of the Court.

RULE 3.4. WITHDRAWAL OF RETAINED COUNSEL

Unless good cause is shown, retained defense counsel in criminal proceedings shall not be permitted to withdraw from representation of a defendant unless the defendant has employed other defense counsel, and provided that the substitution of counsel does not interfere with the orderly disposition of the criminal proceeding.

TITLE 4. PRE-TRIAL PROCEDURES IN CCL #1

- 4.1 Immediately upon employment or Court appointment, the defense attorney shall give written notice thereof to the County Attorney and the County Clerk stating the name of the accused, the offense(s) charged and caused number, if known. The Clerk will note the attorney's name on the docket sheet and indicate whether he is retained or Court appointed.
- 4.2 Following the filing of the case, the Court Coordinator shall notify the accused, his bondsman (if any) and his attorney (if known) to appear for formal arraignment on the date set for such proceedings by the court and shall also notify the accused of the date for the first jury trial setting of the case. All accused persons, their attorneys and bondsmen (if any) shall be required to appear on the date set by the Court for the purpose of formal arraignment and announcements, unless arraignment has been waived, and if a pre-trial hearing is required in the case, such hearing shall be held on a

date set by the Court. The provisions of Art. 28.01 C.C.P., will be strictly complied with, and preliminary matters not raised or filed at least seven (7) days before the pre-trial hearing will not thereafter be allowed to be raised or filed, except by permission of the Court for good cause shown. Copies of all pre-trial motions shall be forwarded to the County Attorney at the time of filing the originals with the County Clerk.

- 4.3 Any attorney challenging the admissibility of expert witness testimony under Daubert v. Merrill Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and its progeny shall contact the Court Coordinator and require a hearing at least thirty (30) days prior to trial. Pursuant to this Court's Standard Discovery Order attached hereto, the County Attorney shall provide discovery to the Defense in all criminal cases of the information referred to in the Order. No Motions for Discovery shall be filed by the Defense as the same will not be necessary. The Court will conduct a pretrial hearing when necessary, in accordance with V.A.C.C.P. Art. 28.01, to consider any other relevant pretrial issues (e.g., Motions to Suppress Evidence, Motions for Continuance, and Motions for Change of Venue; etc.).
- 4.4 The Court Coordinator shall set the criminal jury trial docket and shall give written notice to the County Attorney and to the defense attorneys of the cases that are set for trial for each criminal jury week. All other attorneys who have received notification of trial settings shall be ready and available to proceed to trial upon one-half day's notice.
- 4.5 Attorneys accepting appointments to represent indigent defendants in criminal cases shall familiarize themselves with and shall comply with the Local Indigent Defense Rules and Plan for this Court and shall complete a minimum of 6 hours annually, in continuing legal education in the field of criminal law in order to remain on the Court's appointment list. A sworn affidavit by the attorney verifying that he/she has completed such annual education requirement must be filed with the Court on or before December 31 of each year. Failure to file such affidavit will be grounds for removal from the Court's appointment list.
- 4.6 PENDING FELONY MATTERS. Unless the pending misdemeanor arose from the same transaction or occurrence giving rise to the felony charge, a pending unrelated felony case shall not be a reason or cause for a continuance of the trial setting of the misdemeanor.

TITLE 5. RULES GOVERNING FAMILY LAW PROCEEDINGS

RULE 5.1. TEMPORARY HEARINGS

a. Scheduling

All temporary hearings shall be set on a date and at a time scheduled by the Court. At the time set for the temporary hearing, counsel shall make an announcement of the estimate of time required to present the case.

b. Notice Required When Responding Party Seeking Affirmative Relief

An application to the Court for a temporary order and notice of any hearing thereon which is presented by a party responding to an application for temporary orders in which that party is seeking affirmative relief shall be served on the adverse party in accordance with Rule 5 and Rule 21a of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, as amended.

c. Order of Cases

All cases in which counsel announce a settlement shall be heard first. All other cases shall be docketed according to counsel's announcement, with those matters requiring the least amount of time to be heard first.

d. Documents Required

In all cases in which temporary support of a spouse and /or the child is in issue, each party shall be required to furnish:

1. Copies of that party's federal income tax returns for the two calendar years prior to the temporary hearing, if available.
2. All payroll statements, pay stubs, W2 forms, and 1099 forms which evidence that party's earning for the calendar year prior to the temporary hearing and from January 1 of the current year through the date of the temporary hearing.

e. Duration of Orders

No temporary order shall exceed one hundred and eighty (180) days in duration from the date the order is signed, except by agreement of the parties or order of the Court.

f. Trial Procedures in Temporary Order Cases

In order to prevent the retrial of contested issues in temporary matters, each counsel is permitted to call as witnesses a party and one collateral witness, unless permitted otherwise by the Court, for good cause shown.

g. Removal of Case from Docket

In the event an agreement is reached prior to the hearing date, the parties may request the removal of the case from the Court's docket; however, a Rule 11 Agreement or Agreed Temporary Orders must be filed no later than three (3) days subsequent to the case being removed from the docket.

h. Standing Order RE: Property and Conduct of Parties in Divorce Cases and Suits Affecting the Parent Child Relationship (See Exhibit 5 Attached)

RULE 5.2. PARENT EDUCATION AND FAMILY STABILIZATION COURSE

a. Course Mandatory in Contested Cases

All parties in a contested suit affecting the parent-child relationship, including an action to modify an order in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship, shall attend and complete a parent education and family stabilization course approved by the court in which the suit is pending. Except as provided herein, the provisions governing a parent education and family stabilization course in Section 105.009, Texas Family Code, as amended, shall apply.

b. Waiver of Course

For good cause shown, after notice and hearing, the court may waive the requirement of a course. If a party claims an inability to afford to take a course, and the court finds the claim is meritorious, the court may order that party to attend and complete a course that is offered on a sliding scale fee or without charge, if a course of that type is available.

c. Deadline for Completion

Each party shall complete the course prior to a final hearing on the merits of the case.

d. Verification of Attendance

Each party completing the course shall file a certificate of completion with the court within thirty (30) days of completion of the course, or at the time of that party's next court appearance, whichever is sooner.

e. Sanctions

If a party who is required to attend fails to attend and complete the course, the court may make such orders with regard to the failure as are just, including holding the party in contempt of court, striking pleadings, or invoking any sanction provided by Rule 215, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, as amended.

RULE 5.3. INVENTORY AND APPRAISEMENT

a. Inventory and Appraisal Required

In all cases in which the character, value or division of property or debts is in issue, each party shall file, not less than thirty (30) days prior to a trial, a sworn inventory and appraisal of all of the separate and community property owned or claimed by the parties and all debts and liabilities owed by the parties. It is recommended that each party file this inventory in a form substantially similar to Form 5-1 of the Texas Family Law Practice Manual published by the State Bar of Texas.

b. Proposed Division of Property and Debt

In all cases involving a request for the division of the community estate by the Court, each party is required to submit a proposed division of the estate setting out and identifying the property and debts to be divided.

RULE 5.4. CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

a. Automatic Referral to Attorney General

Each order or decree which provides for child support to be paid through the registry of the District Clerk of Hood County, Texas, shall include and shall be deemed to include, an application for child support services.

b. Fees for Services

A reasonable fee, to be set by the district and statutory county court judges, may be collected by the District Clerk at the time a suit affecting the parent-child relationship is filed.

c. May Decline Services

A person entitled to receive child support services may decline such services on forms provided by the Texas Attorney General at the time collection efforts are initiated. Only the services of the Texas Attorney General may be declined.

TITLE 6. UNCONTESTED DOCKET

The Court will hear uncontested cases beginning at 8:30 a.m. and continuing until 9:00 a.m. Monday – Friday. All counsel or pro se parties are required to have completed all documents necessary to conclude the legal matters before the Court including, but not limited to:

- a. Final Judgment or Final Orders
- b. State of Texas reporting forms
- c. Employer's Order Withholding
- d. QUDRO documents
- e. Statement of last known address of defaulting party
- f. Affidavit of non-military status of defaulting party. Should counsel or pro se parties appear without the same, the case will be thereafter set on the next available contested docket.

It will be the responsibility of the attorney or pro se party to inform the Court Coordinator of the cause number of the case and the Court Coordinator will thereafter secure the original court file from the appropriate clerk and subsequent to the hearing will return said file to the clerk. Attorneys and pro se parties are not to demand the Court's original file from any clerk.

TITLE 7. TRIAL PROCEDURE

- 7.1 Any party filing special exceptions, pleas in abatement or other dilatory pleas shall request and obtain a hearing on them at least thirty (30) days prior to the trial date or as soon as possible after the pleading is filed if the pleading is filed within thirty (30) days of the trial date. Any such matters not heard are waived.
- 7.2 Any case not reached during the week that case is set for trial will be reset by the Court at the Court's discretion.
- 7.3 At the time the parties report for trial they will deliver to the Court, the Court Reporter and the other parties a witness list and exhibit list and any motion in limine. Any witnesses or exhibits not shown on such list can be used at the trial only upon leave of the Court. Prior to commencement of trial all exhibits will be marked, exchanged and examined by the counsel so that the trial will not be delayed by such examination.
- 7.4 Counsel intending to offer videotaped depositions or other films at trial, except those offered solely for impeachment, must make such tapes and films available

to opposing counsel sufficiently in advance of trial so that a hearing on any objections can be held before commencement of trial. Any tapes or films not so tendered will not be permitted into evidence at the trial. All parties must timely examine any tendered tapes or films and request a hearing immediately if there are objections to the admissibility of any party of the tapes or films. Any objections not heard prior to trial will be waived.

- 7.5 During the trial or hearing of any proceeding only court officials, counsel and parties to such proceedings shall be permitted within the bar.
- 7.6 Counsel shall rise to address the Court. Counsel shall remain seated at the counsel table to examine the witnesses, unless permission is first obtained to approach the witness.
- 7.7 A short settlement conference may be held by the judge with counsel for all parties present, immediately prior to the trial. Rulings on the admissibility of evidence, elements includable in damages and other legal issues may be discussed and tentatively resolved by the judge in an effort to precipitate settlements that might otherwise be delayed until resolution of the issues. Should no settlement or other disposition be achieved, the case shall proceed immediately to trial.
- 7.8 Except upon permission of the Court, all witnesses must be present at the courthouse and ready to testify no later than one-half hour after the beginning of trial in a non-jury case. If a witness is not available as required by this rule, and if the absence of such witness does not require a continuance, the Court, in its discretion, may require counsel to present the missing witness out of order, may require the use of a deposition in lieu of the witness, may submit the case to the jury without benefit of the witness's testimony or may make any other order which appears just to avoid delay of the trial.
- 7.9 Counsel shall not repeat or restate information on juror information cards in their voir dire of the jury.
- 7.10 When more than one jury is to be selected counsel in all cases are urged to attend voir dire and to refrain from repeating questions already answered by members of the jury panel on voir dire of a previous case.
- 7.11 In all civil jury trial cases, anticipated special questions, definitions and instructions shall be submitted to the Court in writing and on computer disc in Microsoft Word® format at the pre-trial hearing, or if there is no pre-trial hearing, seven (7) days prior to the beginning of the trial, with copies to opposing counsel or pro se parties.
- 7.12 Counsel shall advise witnesses to speak distinctly and to answer questions audibly so as to be heard by the Court, jury and Court Reporter.

7.13 There shall be no argument by counsel in the presence of the jury relative to the Court's ruling on objections. Counsel wishing to argue shall first ask the Court if the jury might be retired and then present such arguments as the Court may permit.

TITLE 8. MISCELLANEOUS

RULE 8.1. AUTHORITY FOR RULES

These rules are adopted pursuant to the Texas Government Code, Section 75.011 and Rule 3a of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, as amended, and the constitutional, statutory and inherent powers of the courts to regulate proceedings before them and to provide for the orderly and efficient dispatch of litigation.

RULE 8.2. TITLE AND CITATION

These rules shall be known as the Hood County Local Rules of Practice of the Statutory County Court at Law.

RULE 8.3. PARTIAL CIVIL INVALIDITY

In the event any of the foregoing rules or any part thereof is held to be invalid for any reason, such invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remaining rules and parts of rules, all of which have been separately numbered and adopted.

RULE 8.4. TERMS

The terms counsel, lawyer, and attorney of record as used in these rules shall apply to an individual litigant in the event a party appears pro se.

RULE 8.5. CONSTRUCTION OF RULES

Unless otherwise expressly provided, the past, present or future tense shall each include the other; the masculine, the feminine or neutral gender shall each include the other; and the singular and plural shall each include the other.

RULE 8.6. APPLICATION OF RULES

These rules supersede any prior local rules of practice. These rules shall become effective upon approval by the Texas Supreme Court.

RULE 8.7. VACATIONS OF ATTORNEYS

If a case is set for trial by the Court on the date for which an attorney has planned a vacation, the attorney will notify the Court as soon as the notice of trial setting is received and the case will be reset for a different time. If plans for a vacation are made by an attorney after a trial setting notice has been received, the attorney will immediately notify the Court and other parties with a request that the case be reset for a different time. The Court will rule on such after giving all parties to the lawsuit an opportunity to respond to the request.

RICHARD L. HATTOX

- JUDGE -

Board Certified – Criminal Law

Texas Board of Legal Specialization



HOOD COUNTY COURT AT LAW

HOOD COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER

1200 W. Pearl Street

Granbury, TX 76048

(817) 408-3480 Phone

(817) 408-2686 Fax

SHERRY BROOKS

Court Coordinator

GAIL WOOD

Asst. Court Coordinator

LORIE NAYLOR

Court Reporter

STEPHEN MEHAFFEY

Bailiff

MISDEMEANOR CRIMINAL COURT APPOINTMENT

FEE SCHEDULE

Effective 10/01/19

Service	Fee
Dismissal in misdemeanor case (including 1245's)	\$250.00
Plea in misdemeanor case	\$400.00
Multiple misdemeanor pleas (same defendant, same day)	\$450.00
Complex misdemeanor plea [Involving complex issues, lengthy pre-trial, extensive records review/investigation of facts]	\$525.00
Multiple cases on one defendant (maximum fee)	\$575.00
Trial to the Court	\$425.00 (1/2 day) \$500.00 (full day)
Jury Trial (each additional day or partial day thereafter)	\$550.00 (1/2 day) \$750.00
Misdemeanor revocations (contested)	\$450.00
Misdemeanor revocations (uncontested)	\$375.00
Habeas Corpus, Motion for New Trial	\$325.00
Appellate Brief	\$700.00
Appellate Brief w/Oral Argument	\$1,025.00

RICHARD L. HATTOX

- JUDGE -

Board Certified - Criminal Law

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Court Reporter

STEPHEN MEHAFFEY

Bailiff

JUVENILE CRIMINAL COURT APPOINTMENT

FEE SCHEDULE

(EFFECTIVE 12/01/2015)

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Detention Hearings	\$200.00
Uncontested Adjudication/Disposition Hearings	\$400.00
Contested Adjudication/Disposition Hearings	\$650.00
Uncontested Juvenile Modifications	\$300.00
Contested Juvenile Modifications	\$425.00
Appeals to the Court of Appeals	\$1000.00 (brief plus oral argument)
	\$750.00 (brief only)

EXHIBIT 2

CASE NO. _____

STATE OF TEXAS

vs.

§
§
§
§
§

IN THE COUNTY COURT

AT LAW

HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

WAIVER OF ARRAIGNMENT

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW THE DEFENDANT, _____ in the above-entitled
and numbered cause and by and through his/her attorney of record;

_____, files this, his/her Waiver of Arraignment, and would show unto
the Court as follows:

1.

That the Defendant understands what he/she is charged with in this cause, waives his/her
arraignment before the Court, and requests the Court enter his/her plea of "NOT GUILTY".

THEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Defendant respectfully prays that this
Honorable Court in all things grant this Waiver of Arraignment wherein the Defendant pleads not
guilty.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney Name

State Bar No.: _____

(_____) _____

ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT

EXHIBIT 3

CASE NO. _____

STATE OF TEXAS

vs.

§
§
§
§
§

IN THE COUNTY COURT

AT LAW

HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

ORDER

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the foregoing Defendant's Waiver of Arraignment was presented to the Court on this day for its consideration.

After consideration thereof, it is therefore **ORDERED** that Defendant's Waiver of Arraignment is hereby **GRANTED** and his/her plea of "NOT GUILTY" is accepted by the Court.

SIGNED this ____ day of _____, 20____.

JUDGE PRESIDING

(Attorney Block w/email)



**IN THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW
OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS
COURT AT LAW #1**

STANDARD DISCOVERY ORDER

In all criminal cases now or hereafter pending in this Court, the State, through the office of its County Attorney, is ordered to produce and make available to the defendant or his attorney such of the following information and materials as are in the possession, custody or control of the State or any of its agencies or otherwise reasonably available to the prosecution. This information and these materials shall be produced at the office of the county attorney without the necessity of the filing of a motion for discovery.

The State of Texas is to have the following materials and information available to the defense for inspection, photographing, photocopying and duplication, to-wit:

I. RELATING TO DEFENDANT

1. All confessions, incriminating statements and *res gestae* statements purportedly made by the Defendant, including all writings, memos, notes and reports that refer to such confessions or statements;
2. All photographs, sketches, oral recordings and visual recordings of the Defendant;
3. The criminal history of the Defendant as recorded in the TCIC records together with all other crimes, wrongs and acts of which the prosecution has actual knowledge, including all NCIC records reasonably available to the State;
4. Statements by all co-defendants and co-conspirators, whether charged or not, that mention Defendant by name or other description;

II. RELATING TO WITNESS(ES)

5. The criminal history of all witnesses who could within reasonable probability be called as witnesses for the prosecution as recorded in TCIC records together with all other purported criminal activities of which the prosecution has actual knowledge;

6. All NCIC records in the possession of or reasonably available to the prosecution or peace officers and their administrative support officers involved in the prosecution of the Defendant;
7. All plea agreements, offers of plea agreements or suggestions of plea agreements made by or for the prosecution to each and all of the witnesses whose testimony could be offered against the Defendant;
8. The witness list for the prosecution shall be produced to the defense prior to commencement of the jury voir dire examination. Such list shall include all witnesses, whether lay or expert, including witnesses under Rule 701 Texas Rules of Evidence, together with all rebuttal witnesses whose use can be reasonably anticipated by the State;

III. RELATING TO EVIDENCE

9. All physical evidence that could be offered at trial against the Defendant including but not limited to fingerprints, video recordings, audio recordings, documents, papers, books, accounts, letters, photographs, objects or tangible things not privileged which constitute or contain evidence material on any matter involved in this case and which are in the possession, custody or control of the State or any of its agencies; this does not include work product of the prosecutor or the prosecutor's staff or investigators (such as witness statements, officer's notes and reports) unless such material contains impeachment material or exculpatory evidence and is otherwise ordered to be disclosed;
10. Witness statements when and if and at any time it reasonably appears that information contained therein may provide exculpatory evidence or impeachment material for the defense; such materials must be produced for the Defendant forthwith after its discovery by the prosecution;
11. All exculpatory evidence known to the prosecution and required to be produced in accordance with the "Brady Rule";

IV. RELATING TO EXPERT WITNESS

12. All scientific reports regarding any and all evidence that could be offered at trial against the Defendant; if such reports are not in existence the State is required within a reasonable time to reduce to writing; such reports must include the qualifications of the expert, the materials considered by the expert and basis for the opinions and conclusions of the expert. The defense must be afforded reasonable access to such materials and such privacy as may be needed to make a proper examination of the materials. The defense is also permitted to have experts inspect such materials at reasonable times and places. The defense may not conduct testing, destructive or otherwise, on any of the materials in absence of an agreement with the prosecution or a further order of this Court;

13. Either party challenging an expert witness or testimony to be offered by the opponent must file a pretrial motion for a Daubert/Kelly hearing in conformity with the Art. 28.01 C.C.P. to be held by this Court at least 10 days prior to trial;
14. Pursuant to Art 39.14(b)C.C.P., the Court orders that each party shall disclose to the other the name and address of each person that party may use at trial to present evidence under Rules 702, 703 and 705 Texas Rules of Evidence. The prosecution and the Defendant must both disclose to the other party not later than twenty (20) days prior to the date the trial is scheduled, the name and address of each person that party may use at trial to present evidence under Rules 702, 703 and 705 Texas Rules of Evidence. The name and address of the Defendant does not have to be disclosed as a possible witness. Each party shall list such witnesses in a document containing the caption of the case and serve it upon the opposing party as provided by Rule 21a, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.

The prosecution remains under a continuing duty to discover and make available for inspection, copying and duplication all additional information and materials similar to that which is described above within a reasonable time after they become reasonably available to the prosecution. There is also a continuing obligation to provide names and addresses of witnesses forthwith after discovery whose names were not reasonably available to party at a prior time.

Defendants with retained counsel are expected to bear all discovery expenses. In the event the defense counsel has been appointed by the Court to represent an indigent defendant, the prosecutor's office and their agents are required within reason to furnish copies, photocopies, and duplications for no charge to the defense. If defense intends to submit any other expenses for payment through Court, a Motion must be filed with the Court and approved before payment will be approved.

It is the obligation of the Defendant, counsel for the Defendant and counsel for the State to avoid filing motions that duplicate, track or cover, directly or indirectly, any of the provisions of this order. Any such motions will be overruled in their entirety without hearing.

DEFENDANT AND COUNSEL FOR THE DEFENDANT SHOULD NOTE THAT THIS STANDARD DISCOVERY ORDER DOES NOT CHANGE OR AFFECTE THE NECESSITY TO TIMELY FILE ON BEHALF OF THE DEFENDANT THE

1. ELECTION FOR JURY PUNISHMENT;
2. APPLICATION FOR PROBATION;
3. REQUEST FOR NOTICE OF EVIDENCE AND MATERIALS UNDER RULE 404(B) & ART. 37.07 SEC. 3 C.C.P.;
4. "GASKIN RULE" MATERIALS;
5. ANYTHING ELSE NOT SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSED BY THIS ORDER;
6. MOTION FOR AN INTERPRETER.

THE PROSECUTORS AND DEFENSE ATTORNEYS ARE NOTIFIED AND CAUTIONED THAT IN
THIS COURT THEY ARE EXPECTED TO OBSERVE THE TERMS OF THE TEXAS LAWYER'S CREED.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 20____.

JUDGE PRESIDING

FILED

JAN 10 2023

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS
355TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Tonna Trumble Hitt
Tonna Trumble Hitt
Clerk District Court Hood County Texas

AND

**IN THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW #1
OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS**

**STANDING ORDER REGARDING PROPERTY
AND CONDUCT OF THE PARTIES IN
DIVORCE CASES AND SUITS AFFECTING
THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP**

No party to this lawsuit has requested this order. Rather, this order is a standing order of the 355th Judicial District Court, Hood County, Texas, and the County Court at Law #1, Hood County, Texas, that applies to every divorce suit and every suit affecting the parent-child relationship or modification thereof filed in these Courts, except cases initiated by the Attorney General of Texas or Child Protective Services (CPS). These Courts have adopted this order because the parties and their children should be protected and their property preserved while the lawsuit is pending before these Courts. Therefore, it is ORDERED:

1. NO DISRUPTION OF CHILDREN. Both parties are ORDERED to refrain from doing the following acts concerning any children who are subjects of this cause:
 - 1.1. Removing the children from the State of Texas, acting directly or in concert with others, without the written agreement of both parties or an order of these Court.
 - 1.2 Disrupting or withdrawing the children from school or day-care facility where the children are presently enrolled, without the written agreement of both parents or an order of these Court.
 - 1.3 Hiding or secreting the children from the other parent or changing the children's current place of abode, without the written agreement of both parents or an order of these Court.
 - 1.4 Disturbing the peace of the children.

- 1.5 Making disparaging remarks about each other or the other person's family members, to include but not be limited to the child's grandparents, aunts/uncles, or step-parents, in the presence or within the hearing of the child or children.
- 1.6 Discussing with the children, or with any other person in the presence of the children, any litigation related to the children or the other party.
- 1.7 If this is an original divorce action, allowing anyone with whom the party is romantically involved to remain overnight in the home while in possession of the children. Overnight is defined as from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
2. CONDUCT OF THE PARTIES DURING THE CASE. Both parties are ORDERED to refrain from doing the following acts:
 - 2.1 Using vulgar, profane, obscene, or indecent language, or a course or offensive manner, to communicate with the other party, whether in person, by telephone or in writing, including texting and e-mail or other electronic communications.
 - 2.2 Committing any violation of any penal offense of the State of Texas directed at any party or child.
 - 2.3 Opening or diverting mail addressed to the other party.
 - 2.4 Intentionally communicating in person or in any other manner, including by telephone or another electronic voice transmission, video chat, in writing, or electronic messaging, with the other party by use of vulgar, profane, obscene, or indecent language or in a coarse or offensive manner, with intent to annoy or alarm the other party.
 - 2.5 Threatening the other party in person or in any other manner, including by telephone or another electronic voice transmission, video chat, in writing, or electronic messaging, to take unlawful action against any person, intending by this action to annoy or alarm the other party.
 - 2.6 Placing a telephone call, anonymously, at an unreasonable hour, in an offensive and repetitious manner, or without a legitimate purpose of communication with the intent to annoy or alarm the other party.
 - 2.7 Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing bodily injury to the other party or to a child of either party.
 - 2.8 Threatening the other party or a child of either party with imminent bodily injury.
 - 2.9 Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly destroying, removing, concealing,

encumbering, transferring, or otherwise harming or reducing the value of the property of the parties or either party with intent to obstruct the authority of the court to order a division of the estate of the parties in a manner that the court deems just and right, having due regard for the rights of each party and any children of the marriage.

3. **PRESERVATION OF PROPERTY AND USE OF FUNDS DURING DIVORCE CASE.** If this is a divorce case, both parties to the marriage are ORDERED to refrain from doing the following acts:

- 3.1 Destroying, removing, concealing, encumbering, transferring, or otherwise harming or reducing the value of the property of one or both of the parties.
- 3.2 Misrepresenting or refusing to disclose to the other party or to the Court, on proper request, the existence, amount or location of any property of one or both of the parties.
- 3.3 Damaging or destroying the tangible property of one or both of the parties, including any document that represents or embodies anything of value.
- 3.4 Tampering with the tangible property of one or both of the parties, including any document that represents or embodies anything of value, and causing pecuniary loss to the other party.
- 3.5 Selling, transferring, assigning, mortgaging, encumbering, or in any other manner alienating any of the property of either party, whether personal property or real estate property, and whether separate or community, except as specifically authorized by this order.
- 3.6 Incurring any indebtedness, other than legal expenses in connection with this suit, except as specifically authorized by this order.
- 3.7 Making withdrawals from any checking or savings account in any financial institution for any purpose, except as specifically authorized by this order.
- 3.8 Spending any sum of cash in either party's possession or subject to either party's control for any purpose, except as specifically authorized by this order.
- 3.9 Withdrawing or borrowing in any manner for any purpose from any retirement, profit-sharing, pension, death or other employee benefit plan or employee savings plan or from any individual retirement account or Keogh account, except as specifically authorized by this order.
- 3.10 Signing or endorsing the other party's name on any negotiable instrument, check, or draft, such as tax refunds, insurance payments, and dividends, or

attempting to negotiate any negotiable instrument payable to the other party without the personal signature of the other party.

- 3.11 Taking any action to terminate or limit credit or charge cards in which the other party is named as primary or secondary holder.
- 3.12 Entering, operating, or exercising control over the motor vehicle(s) in the possession of the other party.
- 3.13 Terminating or in any manner affecting the service of water, electricity, gas, telephone, cable television, or other contractual services, such as security, pest control, landscaping or yard maintenance, at the other party's residence or in any manner attempting to withdraw any deposits for service in connection with such services.
- 3.14 Discontinuing or altering the withholding for federal income taxes on wage or salary while this suit is pending.
- 3.15 Intercepting or recording the other party's electronic communications.
- 3.16 Taking any action to obtain credit in the name of the other party.
- 4. **PERSONAL AND BUSINESS RECORDS IN DIVORCE CASE.** If this is a divorce case, both parties to the marriage are **ORDERED** to refrain from doing the following acts:
 - 4.1 Concealing or destroying any family records, property records, financial records, business records or any records of income, debts, or other obligations.
"Records" include e-mail or other digital or electronic data, whether stored on a computer hard drive, diskette or other electronic storage device.
 - 4.2 Intentionally falsifying a writing or record, including an electronic record, relating to the property of either party.
 - 4.3 Intentionally misrepresenting or refusing to disclose to the other party or to the court, on proper request, the existence, amount, or location of any tangible or Intellectual property of the parties or either party, including electronically stored or recorded information.
 - 4.4 Intentionally or knowingly damaging or destroying the tangible or intellectual property of the parties or either party, including electronically stored or recorded Information.
 - 4.5 Intentionally or knowingly tampering with the tangible or intellectual property of the parties or either party, including electronically stored or recorded information, and causing pecuniary loss or substantial inconvenience to the other

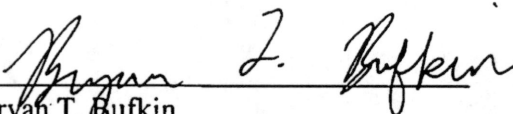
party.

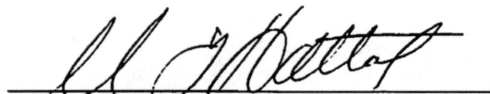
5. INSURANCE IN A DIVORCE CASE. If this is a divorce case, both parties to the marriage are ORDERED to refrain from doing the following acts:
 - 5.1 Withdrawing or borrowing in any manner all or any part of the cash surrender value of life insurance policies on the life of either party, except as specifically authorized by this order.
 - 5.2 Changing or in any manner altering the beneficiary designation on any life insurance on the life of either party or the parties' children.
 - 5.3 Cancelling, altering, or in any manner affecting any casualty, automobile, or health insurance policies insuring the parties' property or persons including the parties' minor children.
6. SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATIONS IN A DIVORCE CASE. If this is a divorce case, both parties to the marriage are specifically authorized to do the following:
 - 6.1 To engage in acts reasonable and necessary to the conduct of that party's usual business and occupation. To make expenditures and incur indebtedness for reasonable attorney's fees and expenses in connection with this suit.
 - 6.2 To make expenditures and incur indebtedness for reasonable and necessary living expenses for food, clothing, shelter, transportation and medical care.
 - 6.3 To make withdrawals from accounts in financial institutions only for the purposes authorized by this order.
7. SERVICE AND APPLICATION OF THIS ORDER.
 - 7.1 The District Clerk shall attach a copy of this order to the original petition and to each copy of the petition at the time the petition is filed. **The Petitioner, by his/her attorney, shall certify in writing in the original petition that he/she has received and reviewed the entire contents of this Order upon filing of an original petition, suit affecting the parent-child relationship, or modification.**
 - 7.2 This order is effective upon the filing of the original petition and shall remain in full force and effect as a temporary restraining order for fourteen days after the date of the filing of the original petition. **If no party contests this order by presenting evidence at a hearing on or before fourteen days after the date of the filing of the original petition, this order shall continue in full force and effect as a temporary mutual injunction until further order of the Court.** This entire order will terminate and will no longer be effective once the court signs a final order.

8. **EFFECT OF OTHER COURT ORDERS.** If any part of this order is different from any part of a protective order that has already been entered or is later entered, the protective order provisions prevail. Any part of this order not changed by some later order remains in full force and effect until the court signs a final decree.
9. **PARTIES MUST CONFERENCE.** Prior to any hearing for Temporary Orders the parties and attorneys shall certify to the Court in writing that they have conferenced and negotiated for at least one (1) hour in an effort to resolve all issues regarding Temporary Orders. A Certificate of Conference establishing that this requirement has been met, must be on file prior to any hearing for Temporary Orders.
10. **OTHER REQUESTS FOR ORDERS.** Motions or applications for relief that duplicate, track, or cover, directly or indirectly, any of the provisions of this order will be denied in their entirety without a hearing.

THIS 355th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT AND COURT AT LAW OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS STANDING ORDER REGARDING CHILDREN, PROPERTY AND CONDUCT OF THE PARTIES SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE ON JANUARY 9, 2023.

Signed this 9 day of January, 2023.


Bryan T. Bufkin
Judge, 355th Judicial District
Hood County, Texas


Richard L. Hattox
Judge, County Court at Law #1
Hood County, Texas