



STANDING ORDER REGARDING
PRO SE PROBATE AND GUARDIANSHIP MATTERS

WHEREAS, on occasion, individuals attempt to file Family Probate and Guardianship matters without the benefit of counsel;

WHEREAS, the County Court of Gray County, Texas believes that a person should have the right to represent themselves if they chose;

WHEREAS, an Estate, Probate, or Guardianship matter is a complex and complicated matter requiring more than an ordinary knowledge of filling in a blank form for submission;

WHEREAS, the purpose of a Probate is not only to pass title to the Heirs or Devisees of a Decedent, but to assure the resolution of valid claims against the Estate;

WHEREAS, the purpose of a Guardianship is to protect the well being and property of a person of limited abilities for an undetermined period of time;

WHEREAS, the County Court of Gray County, Texas, is placed in the untenable position of making unbiased judgements, while also being expected to assume the liability for the welfare and protection of a *pro se* applicant in a Probate or Guardianship matter;

THEREFORE, it is a standing order of this Court that the Court will not hear *PRO SE* Probate matters unless there is a valid Will, the Applicant is the sole Heir under that Will, and the Will is filed as a Muniment of Title. The Court will not hear *PRO SE* Guardianship matters under any circumstances.

SIGNED this the 16th day of February 2023

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Chris Porter", is written over a horizontal line.

Chris Porter
Gray County Judge