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D. Lane

**STANDING ORDER
REGARDING DISCOVERY AND MEDIATION**

It is ORDERED that these procedures govern discovery disputes, discovery control plans and mediation in civil cases in the 336th Judicial District Court.

The purpose of these procedures is to promote prompt, efficient, cost-effective resolution of civil actions while balancing the need for lowering discovery costs against the complexity of a case and need for discovery.

APPOINTMENT

The Court now APPOINTS Fannin County Judge, H.N. "Newt" Cunningham III, as Master in Chancery under Rule 171 and Mediator for the 336th District Court to: (1) hear discovery disputes, (2) recommend discovery control plans for Level 3 cases, and (3) mediate civil cases, assigned to him by the Court. In carrying out these duties Judge Cunningham will comply with the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, applicable laws, and orders or instructions of the Court.

DISCOVERY DISPUTES:

The Court may assign discovery disputes to Judge Cunningham for resolution that are found to be exceptional cases and where good cause exists for his appointment.

DISCOVERY PLANS:

The Court may assign Rule 190.4 Level 3 cases to Judge Cunningham for his recommendation as to a discovery control plan that are found to be exceptional cases and where good cause exists for his appointment.

MEDIATION:

The Court may assign cases to Judge Cunningham for mediation. Matters to be mediated may include settlement, discovery disputes, and discovery control plans. Parties will not be required to mediate with Judge Cunningham but will be free to jointly choose their own mediator. When assigned Judge Cunningham's mediation services will be offered at no charge to the parties.

The effective date of this order is January 1, 2023 but signed this 23rd day of November 2022.



Laurine J. Blake, Presiding Judge 336th Judicial District Court