

Administrative Order
2023-6

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In the Probate Court
Number Two
Travis County, Texas

**Administrative Order Granting the Travis County Probate Court Mental
Health Public Defenders and the Travis County Attorney's Office
Access to Mental Health Case Files**

Under Texas Health and Safety Code § 571.015, "each paper in a docket for mental health proceedings in the county clerk's office . . . is a public record of a private nature that may be used, inspected, or copied only under a written order issued by . . . a judge of a court that has probate jurisdiction . . . in the county in which the docket is located." One permissible reason for a judge to issue such a written order is if the judge enters a finding that "the use, inspection, or copying is justified and in the public interest."

The Court finds that after receiving a request from the Travis County Probate Court Mental Health Public Defenders and/or the Travis County Attorney's Office to view mental health case files, the Court finds that the Travis County Probate Court Mental Health Public Defenders' and the Travis County Attorney's Office's access to the mental health case files is justified and in the public interest in order to better serve the patients.

It is therefore ORDERED that, at the request of the Travis County Probate Court Mental Health Public Defenders and/or the Travis County Attorney's Office, the Travis County Clerk is authorized to provide access to the mental health case files.

Effective until further order of this Court.



Nicholas Chu, Judge Presiding

FILED FOR RECORD
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DYANA LINDA MERCADO
COUNTY CLERK
TRAVIS COUNTY TEXAS