IN THE COUNTY COURTS-AT-LAW OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS:

Administrative Order Governing Distribution of Cases and Dockets Upon the Creation of County Court-at-Law No 5

In 2021, The Texas Legislature created Williamson County Court-at-Law 5. *See* TEX. GOVT. CODE § 25.481(5) (effective 10/1/22). The County Courts-at-Law of Williamson County are general jurisdiction courts with jurisdiction over civil, criminal, family, and probate cases. *See* TEX. GOVT. CODE §§ 25.003, 25.2482(a).

The judges of the existing County Courts-at-Law hereby enter the following order concerning the distribution of cases and dockets. The provisions of this order will take effect on the day the Judge of County Court-at-Law 5 takes office.

Distribution of Newly Filed Cases

On the day the Judge of County Court-at-Law 5 takes office, the distribution of newly filed and newly assigned cases will be as follows:

Misdemeanor Criminal Cases: 35% of newly filed misdemeanor criminal cases to County Court-at-Law 2; 30% of newly filed misdemeanor criminal cases to County Court-at-Law 3; and 35% of newly filed misdemeanor criminal cases to County Court-at-Law 5.

Civil Cases: 100% of newly filed non-family civil cases not specifically addressed by other sections of this order to County Court-at-Law 5.

CPS Cases: 100% of newly filed Child Protective Services cases to County Court-at-Law 1.

Protective Order Cases: 50% of newly filed Protective Order cases to County Court-at-Law 1; and 50% of newly filed Protective Order cases to County Court-at-Law 4. If a protective order

case involves the same parties as another pending family case, it will be assigned to the Court in which the family case is pending. If a family case is filed involving the same parties as those involved in a pending protective order case, that case will not follow the protective order case but will be assigned randomly according to the distribution patterns outlined below for non-protective order family cases.

Termination Cases and Adoption Cases Involving Children: 50% of newly filed termination cases and adoption cases involving children to County Court-at-Law 1; and 50% of newly filed termination cases and adoption cases involving children to County Court-at-Law 4.

All Other Family Cases: Beginning on the date the Judge of County Court-at-Law 5 takes office, thereafter for a period not to exceed 90 days, 100% of all other newly filed family will be filed in County Court-at-Law 1. On the date 90 days after the Judge of County Court-at-Law 5 takes office, or once 600 new cases have been filed in County Court-at-Law 1, whichever is earlier, newly filed family cases will be assigned as follows: 33.33% of all other newly filed family cases to County Court-at-Law 1; 33.33% of all other newly filed family cases to County Court-at-Law 3; and 33.33% of all other newly filed family cases to County Court-at-Law 4.

Probate Cases and Guardianships: 100% of newly filed probate cases and guardianships to County Court-at-Law 4.

Mental Health Commitments: 100% of newly filed cases involving mental health commitments to County Court-at-Law 2.

Extraditions: 100% of newly filed extradition cases to County Court-at-Law 2.

Condemnation Suits: Condemnation suits will continue to be filed equally among the County Courts-at-Law.

Distribution of Existing Cases

On the day the Judge of County Court-at-Law 5 takes office, the distribution of previously filed, existing cases will be as follows:

Misdemeanor Criminal Cases: All pending criminal cases in County Court-at-Law 1 will be transferred to County Court-at-Law 5.

All Other Pending Cases: All other pending cases, criminal, civil, family, etc., will remain in the Court in which they are then pending on the date the Judge of County Court-at-Law 5 takes office.

Modifications and Enforcements in Family Cases: All modifications, enforcements and other reopened family cases will remain in the Court in which they were originally heard and disposed.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 1ST DAY OF AUGUST, 2022.

Brandy Hallford, Judge
Williamson County Court-at-Law 1

Laura Barker, Judge
Williamson County Court-at-Law 2

Doug Arnold, Judge
Williamson County Court-at-Law 3

John McMaster, Judge
Williamson County Court-at-Law 4

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County Clerk, Williamson Co., TX