

THE DISTRICT COURT 300TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

BRAZORIA COUNTY, TEXAS

STANDING ORDER OF THE COURT FOR FINAL TRIAL (JURY AND NON-JURY) IN
CIVIL CASES

Effective for all civil trials which begin or are set to begin on or after July 1, 2025, all parties/attorneys are ORDERED to abide by the following requirements:

1. Any party requesting a final trial setting shall first make reasonable efforts to secure an agreement regarding the date requested for the setting from any other party who has made an appearance in the case prior to requesting the setting. Trial setting dates are to be obtained from and approved by the Court Coordinator, Deana Lycka, and will be formalized by the filing of a Scheduling Order (form promulgated by the Court) with the approved date(s).
2. A trial setting may not be “passed.” A case that is set for “trial or dismissal” may not be reset without the Court’s permission. Cases that are not set for “trial or dismissal” may only be reset prior to the trial date, and then, only with prior agreement of each party or by permission from the Court. The dates for the new trial setting are obtained from the Court Coordinator in the same manner that the original date was obtained—by approval from the Court Coordinator and set forth in a new Scheduling Order signed by the attorneys (and/or unrepresented parties).
3. Each party is ordered to comply with all Rules regarding Discovery and Discovery deadlines as set forth in Chapter 301 of the Texas Family Code and in the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure (TRCP) (unless otherwise ordered by the Court or agreed in accordance with Rule 11 TRCP).

* *Nothing in this Order shall be construed in a manner as to relieve a party from the duty to abide by the Rules of Discovery. Failure to abide by said Rules may result in sanctions, including but not limited to, an award of attorney's fees, exclusion of witnesses and/or evidence, and/or the striking of pleadings. Further, failure to procure a ruling prior to trial regarding objections or disputes concerning the failure to comply with the Discovery Rules of which the objecting party is aware or of which the party should have been aware may result in waiver of such objection or dispute.

4. In all jury trials, each party is ordered to appear through his or her attorney (or personally if not represented by an attorney) at a Pretrial Conference on the date specified in the Scheduling Order (dates and times to be set through the Court Coordinator). The purpose of the Pretrial Conference will be to address with or inform the Court of the following:

- a. Issues to be presented to the jury;
- b. Time estimates for each side;
- c. Present/address any remaining discovery issues, objections or disputes;
- d. Provide the Court with a list of exhibits to which the parties have stipulated;
- e. Notify the Court of any Daubert/Robinson challenge or any other hearing that must be scheduled and heard outside the presence of the jury;
- f. Notify the Court of whether a translator is to be used or is needed;
- g. Notify the Court of any other unusual issues, circumstances or accommodations sought;
- h. Obtain a ruling on a request for or objection to the appearance of any participant by electronic means;
- i. Designate the exhibits to which the parties stipulate to being pre-admitted.

In all jury trials, no less than 5 days prior to the Pretrial Conference, each party must provide to all other parties a list of and a copy of each exhibit the party intends to offer at trial. The exhibits must be pre-marked. Additionally, each party must provide all other parties a list of the witnesses the party intends to call to testify at trial. Failure to comply with the requirement to provide the exhibit list, copies of exhibits or witness list may result in the exclusion of exhibits or witnesses at the trial.

Any party objecting to the exhibits or witnesses of another party based on an alleged Discovery deficiency, must make the objection at the Pretrial Conference, or the objection may be deemed waived by the Court.

5. All participants in any trial on the merits shall appear in person, rather than by electronic means, unless the Court gives permission after proper notice is provided in accordance with Rule 21 d(b) and Rule 21d TRCP, and hearing. Any hearing on a motion for appearance by electronic means must be in person. Any party requesting permission to appear or allow the appearance of any other participant by electronic means must obtain a ruling on the request at the Pretrial Conference in cases for which one is required by this Order, and in all other cases, permission must be obtained prior to the date of trial. If permission is given, any party appearing by electronic means shall provide each other party with all information necessary for a party to participate by electronic means and the means and instructions for submitting evidence. A party shall

not provide the party's exhibits or copies thereof to the Court via email or by filing them with the District Clerk, without express permission from the Court. Exhibits submitted in electronic form will not be printed by the Court, Court Reporter or Clerk.

6. In cases involving property division, the parties shall file a current (up to date) Inventory and Appraisal and a Proposed Property Division no later than 5 days prior to trial.
7. In all bench trials, all exhibits shall be pre-marked and exchanged with opposing counsel (or "party" if pro se) not later than 5 days prior to trial.
8. A current and signed Financial Information Statement shall be presented to the Court on the day of trial.
9. A "courtesy copy" of exhibits, documents and reports to be offered at trial shall be provided to the Court on the day of trial.
10. Motions in Limine shall be filed and heard prior to the beginning of trial on the merits.
11. For any jury trial, if an additional pretrial hearing is needed, the party requesting the additional hearing shall notify the Court at the initial Pretrial Conference.
12. Each party shall file proof of completion of For Kids Sake Course, or an equivalent parenting program.

SIGNED THIS DATE:

May 19, 2025



JUDGE PRESIDING