

STANDING PROTECTIVE ORDER FOR DFPS RECORDS

The Court, in the interest of establishing a standing procedure for cases within this jurisdiction involving the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (referred to as the "Producing Party") and Crossroads Defenders (referred to as the "Receiving Party"), hereby issues this Standing Protective Order.

The Court, in consideration of the relevant statutes and the need to ensure confidentiality while securing defendants the right to a fair trial in cases within this jurisdiction, recognizes that the Producing Party may receive a subpoena duces tecum from an attorney for a Defendant in cases within this jurisdiction. Such subpoenas shall facilitate the production of records of the Producing Party.

The Court finds that the Producing Party has a statutory duty to maintain the confidentiality of communications and records contained within its possession. The information sought to be compelled is protected by privilege and confidentiality statutes, may only be released to certain parties as specified in the statutes, generally must be redacted to protect the identity of a reporter and any other person whose life or safety may be endangered by disclosure of the records, and requires protection of certain other confidential information from disclosure pursuant to Section 261.201 of the Texas Family Code, and Title 40, Sections 700.203 and 700.204 of the Texas Administrative Code.

Notwithstanding the above, the Court finds that the production of these confidential records to the Requesting Party in the manner ordered herein within this jurisdiction would further the interests of justice and/or aid in the resolution of such cases. The Court finds that defense counsel acknowledges and agrees to the terms and conditions within this Standing Protective order in signing the agreement for each case.

The Producing Party is ordered to release all records, including audio/video records, exclusive of items described by article 39.15 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, if any, in its possession, without redaction, to the Requesting Party by mutually agreed date in the applicable case-specific duces tecum, to be governed by this Standing Protective Order. Therefore, the Court hereby incorporates the protective order attached hereto as ATTACHMENT A, which is incorporated herein for all purposes, which shall apply to criminal cases within this jurisdiction involving the Producing Party.

"It is ORDERED that all records provided by the Department to defense counsel in cases within this jurisdiction are CONFIDENTIAL by law, and all records obtained from the Department shall be subject to this Standing Protective Order. Counsel for the Requesting Party SHALL ensure that the Department's records are destroyed upon the exhaustion of appeals or final disposition of the case."


Hon. K. Stephen Williams
Judge, 135th District Court
Local Administrative Judge

SIGNED this 17th day of July, 2025.

FILED
AT 10:00 O'CLOCK A.M.

11 17 2025

TERESA OLASCUAGA-GARCIA
DISTRICT CLERK, CALHOUN COUNTY, TEXAS
BY  DEPUTY
district clerk