

CAUSE NO. _____

IN THE INTEREST OF

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT

OF MCLENNAN COUNTY, TEXAS

CHILD(REN)

474TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**SECOND AMENDED STANDING ORDER METHOD OF HEARINGS
AND REQUESTS FOR SETTINGS IN CASES FILED BY DFPS**

This Order is being issued by the Centex Child Protection Court North and the 474th Judicial District Court pursuant to the updates of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure and the termination of the emergency order provisions by the Texas Supreme Court.

Effective August 12, 2025, all trials, hearings and other proceedings in the Centex Child Protection Court North will be conducted in person, unless the court has previously granted permission for the entire proceeding to be conducted remotely via Zoom.

Notwithstanding the fact that the proceedings shall be held in the Courtroom allowing access to participate and the public, prior approval for individual remote appearances via Zoom during the live hearing may be granted for good cause. In addition, absent order to the contrary, individual remote appearances via Zoom are hereby authorized during the live proceeding for the following persons or circumstances without prior approval:

1. Any current placement for the child(ren) who is not a party to the suit;
2. Any expert witness;
3. Any witness who resides outside of McLennan County;
4. Any parent or other respondent party who resides outside of McLennan and contiguous counties;
5. Any attorney, party or witness appearing for an adoption hearing, a hearing to enter order or a permanency hearing after final order.

6. Any attorney, party, or participant for any hearing in which all matters in controversy have been resolved by either Mediated Settlement Agreement or an agreement pursuant to Rule 11 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure;
7. Any CPS supervisor (who is not expected to be called by the Department);
8. Any CASA advocate that would not otherwise be able to attend the hearing;

DE NOVO HEARINGS

All de novo hearings from this court to the referring court will be set for an in-person hearing, absent request in the Motion for De Novo Review showing good cause. The hearing will be moved from an in-person hearing to virtual only by approval of the referring court upon a showing of good cause.

DURATION OF ORDER

The terms of this Order remain in effect for as long as the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services remains a party in the case or until further order of the Court.

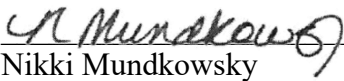
IT IS SO ORDERED.



Alan Bennett
474th Judicial District Court Judge
McLennan County Texas

July 23, 2025

Date



Nikki Mundkowsky
Associate Judge
Centex Child Protection Court North
McLennan County Texas

July 24, 2025

Date