



O-04-002

In the County Courts at Law of Hays County, Texas

**STANDING ORDER ESTABLISHING THE GENERAL AUTHORITY AND SCOPE
OF THE GUARDIANSHIP STAFF ATTORNEY AS COURT VISITOR IN
GUARDIANSHIP CASES WITHIN HAYS COUNTY**

To ensure the effective administration of guardianship proceedings and to provide the Courts with accurate, independent, and timely information necessary for the protection of incapacitated persons, the County Courts at Law issue this Order establishing the authority and scope of the Guardianship Staff Attorney to serve as Court Visitor. Pursuant to the Texas Estates Code, including Chapters 1054 and 1102, the Guardianship Staff Attorney is authorized to act as an agent of the Court for the limited purpose of conducting visits, reviewing records, interviewing proposed wards, current wards, guardians, and other relevant persons, and submitting written reports and recommendations directly to the Courts. The Guardianship Staff Attorney, when acting as Court Visitor shall not serve as an advocate for any party but instead shall function solely as a neutral extension of the Court to assist in determining the best interests of wards and proposed wards.

The County Courts at Law of Hays County hereby grants the Guardianship Staff Attorney the following authority and responsibilities.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Appointment & Authority.

The Guardianship Staff Attorney has the general authority to act as Court Visitor in any and all guardianship cases in Hays County, including the following responsibilities:

- a) To visit and interview the ward or proposed ward in any guardianship proceeding, either in person or through appropriate means, to assess the current physical, mental, and emotional condition of the ward or proposed ward;
- b) To assess the living conditions, environment, healthcare, and general well-being of the ward or proposed ward;
- c) To interview the guardian, family members, healthcare providers, caregivers, and other individuals involved in the ward's or proposed ward's care or welfare;
- d) To investigate any complaints or concerns regarding the treatment or care of the ward or proposed ward, including allegations of neglect or abuse.

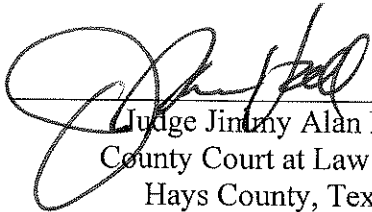
2. Confidentiality & Privacy.

The Guardianship Staff Attorney, in their capacity as Court Visitor, shall maintain strict confidentiality regarding all information gathered during visits and interviews. The Guardianship Staff Attorney as Court Visitor shall disclose such information only to the Court.

3. Effect.

This Standing Order shall apply to all guardianship cases in Hays County in which the Courts designate the Guardianship Staff Attorney as Court Visitor. This Order shall remain in effect until the Courts modify or rescind this Order.

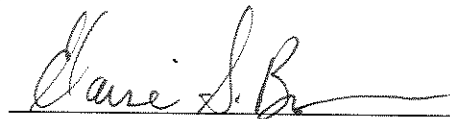
THIS HAYS COUNTY STANDING ORDER ESTABLISHING THE GENERAL AUTHORITY AND SCOPE OF THE GUARDIANSHIP STAFF ATTORNEY AS COURT VISITOR IN GUARDIANSHIP CASES WITHIN HAYS COUNTY SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY UPON PUBLICATION ON THE OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION'S WEBSITE.



Judge Jimmy Alan Hall
County Court at Law No. 1
Hays County, Texas



Judge Chris Johnson
County Court at Law No. 2
Hays County, Texas



Judge Elaine Brown
County Court at Law No. 3
Hays County, Texas