O-12-004

In the County Courts at Law of Hays County, Texas

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING REMOTE PROCEEDINGS AND PROHIBITION OF UNAUTHORIZED RECORDING

The County Courts at Law conduct remote and hybrid judicial proceedings to facilitate efficient access to justice. Therefore, it is necessary to establish procedural rules to safeguard the integrity of these judicial proceedings, to ensure compliance with statutory mandates, and to protect confidential and sensitive information during these proceedings.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

The following rules govern all remote proceedings before these Courts:

1. Prohibition Against Unauthorized Recording and Broadcasting.

Pursuant to Section 21.001(b) of the Texas Government Code and Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 18c, a person, including any party, attorney, witness, spectator, or other member of the public, shall not record, photograph, capture, stream, or broadcast any portion of any remote proceeding by any means or on any device.

This prohibition strictly applies to all digital, audio, or visual media, including the deployment of third-party artificial intelligence (AI), note-taker computer applications, automated transcription bots, screen-capture software, or external recording devices. Only the official court reporter or official court recorder is authorized to create a record of these proceedings.

2. Penalty for Violation.

A person's use of a recording device or automated system in violation of this Order shall result in the Court's immediate termination of that person's remote access to the subject proceeding and may subject that person to criminal or civil contempt of court under Section 21.002(b) of the Texas Government Code. A conviction of contempt is subject to a statutorily set fine of not more than $500, confinement in the county jail for not more than six months, or both such a fine and confinement in jail, per discreet violation.

3. Mandatory Attachment to Remote Proceeding Requests.

A copy of this Administrative Order **SHALL BE ATTACHED** to every request, motion, or application for a remote hearing submitted a Court as an explicit acknowledgement of the prohibition against unauthorized recording of these proceedings.

THIS HAYS COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING REMOTE PROCEEDINGS AND PROHIBITION OF UNAUTHORIZED RECORDING SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY UPON

PUBLICATION ON THE OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION'S WEBSITE.

Judge Elaine S. Brown
County Court at Law No. 31
Hays County, Texas

Signed: 7/30/26

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

Signed: 7/30/26

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

Signed: 7/30/26