STANDING ORDER REGARDING USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
Matagorda County District Courts

This Standing Order of the District Courts of Matagorda County applies to every pending or hereafter filed case in the District Courts of Matagorda County. Nothing in this Order should be construed as relieving an attorney or self-represented litigant of any legal or ethical obligation required by law, statute, or rule, including rules of procedure, evidence, or the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

Generative artificial intelligence systems (such as ChatGPT, Harvey.AI, Claude, Google Copilot, OpenAI, Bing, Lexis+ AI, Westlaw AI-Assisted Research, Ask Practical Law AI, and others) are being incorporated into common professional use. The abilities of these systems vary widely depending on the application, version, and underlying technology used. While technology is developing quickly, it is currently unreliable, prone to bias, and may fabricate information. The creators of these systems are not attorneys of record, licensed and in good standing to practice law in the State of Texas, and are not bound by the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

WHEREAS the signing of a pleading or motion in Texas certifies that each claim, defense, or other legal contention in the pleading or motion is warranted by existing law or by a non-frivolous argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law or the establishment of new law;

WHEREAS courts have the inherent power to sanction parties for violation of rules, orders, standing orders, and statutory obligations; and

WHEREAS a court on its own initiative may direct a court participant to show cause why his or her conduct has not violated a rule, order, standing order, or statutory obligation;

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

All attorneys and self-represented litigants who file pleadings, documents, or otherwise appear in a case shall sign and submit the appropriate attached certification form, stating that:

1. All language, quotations, sources, citations, arguments, and legal analysis created or contributed to by generative artificial intelligence were, before submission, verified as accurate through traditional (non-AI) legal sources by a human being; and
2. The attorney or self-represented litigant submitting such information understands and acknowledges that they are and will be held responsible and potentially sanctioned for their own, their staff's, or their co-counsel's failure to comply with this Order.

This Order is effective immediately for all cases filed or pending in the Matagorda County District Courts. This Order remains in effect until rescinded or replaced by the District Courts of Matagorda County and may be modified or amended at any time.

The Matagorda County District Clerk is directed to file this Order with the Office of Court Administration, to post it in the county administrative orders, and to ensure that a file-marked copy is posted as a Public Notice at the County Courthouse and on the Matagorda County District Courts' website.

SIGNED on October 9, 2026.

JUDGE JOHN MAHER
23rd District Court

JUDGE DENISE M. FORTENBERRY
130th District Court

FILED
at 4:05 o'clock P. M.
OCT - 9 2026
JANICE L. HAWTHORNE
Clerk of District Court, Matagorda Co., Texas
By _____ DEPUTY

Certification Regarding Use of Artificial Intelligence

CAUSE NO. _____

_____	§	**IN THE DISTRICT COURT**
	§	
_____	§	**23RD/130TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**
	§	
_____	§	**MATAGORDA COUNTY, TEXAS**

CERTIFICATION REGARDING USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

I, the undersigned attorney of record or self-represented litigant in the above-entitled and numbered cause pending in the District Courts of Matagorda County, Texas, hereby certify as follows:

1. I have reviewed and understand the Standing Order Regarding Use of Artificial Intelligence issued by the Matagorda County District Courts, and I will comply with that Order throughout this case.

2. Any information created or contributed to by generative artificial intelligence-including, but not limited to, language, quotations. sources, citations, arguments, and legal analysis-was, before submission to this Court, independently verified as accurate using traditional (non-Al) legal sources by a human being.

3. I understand that I remain personally responsible for all filings and submissions to this Court, and that I may be subject to sanctions under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code Chapter 10, the inherent power of the Court, or for contempt of court, for failing to comply with the Court's Standing Order or this certification.

SIGNED on _____.

_____
Signature
Attorney or Self Represented Litigant
Printed Name: _____
State Bar No. _____
Address: _____
_____
Tele: _____
Fax: _____
Email: _____

UNIFORM ATTORNEY CERTIFICATION REGARDING USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE STANDING ORDER REGARDING USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN MATAGORDA COUNTY DISTRICT COURTS

I, _____, the undersigned attorney, practicing in the District Courts of Matagorda County, Texas, hereby certify as follows:

1. I have reviewed and understand the Standing Order Regarding Use of Artificial Intelligence issued by the Matagorda County District Courts, and I will comply with the Standing Order Regarding use of Artificial Intelligence and any subsequently issued versions of the Standing Order Regarding Use of Artificial Intelligence without receiving further notice.
2. I understand that with the filing of this certificate I have effectively filed this certificate in all of my pending and future court cases with and/or before any District Court of Matagorda County, Texas.
3. That any and all information created or contributed to or by generative artificial intelligence including, but not limited to - language, quotations, sources, citations, arguments, and legal analysis - was independently verified as accurate using traditional (non-AI) legal sources by a human being before it was submitted into any court case file or during any proceeding in or before a District Court of Matagorda County, Texas.
4. I understand that I remain personally responsible for all filings and submissions to the District Courts of Matagorda County, Texas, and that I may be subject to sanctions under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code Chapter 10, the inherent power of the Court, or for contempt of court, for failing to comply with the Court's Standing Order or this certification.

SIGNED this _____ day of _____, 202_

Attorney's Signature: _____ Bar No.: _____
Printed Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone No.: _____
Fax No.: _____
Email: _____

This document upon completion can be delivered for filing to the Matagorda County District Clerk by email at dclerk(@matagordatx.gov, by mail or hand delivery to1700 7th Street, Room 307 Bay City, Texas 77414.