

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

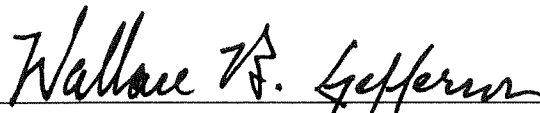
Misc. Docket No. Q6- 9156

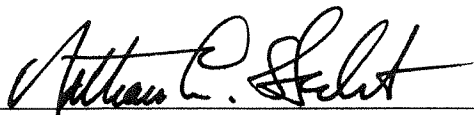
APPROVAL OF LOCAL RULES FOR THE FAMILY COURTS OF TARRANT COUNTY

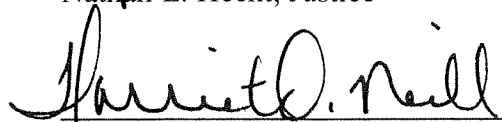
ORDERED that:

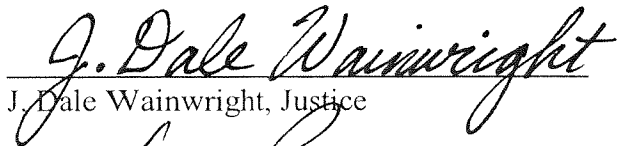
Pursuant to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 3a, the following Local Rules for the Family Courts of Tarrant County are approved.


In Chambers, this 29th day of November, 2006.


Wallace B. Jefferson, Chief Justice


Nathan L. Hecht, Justice

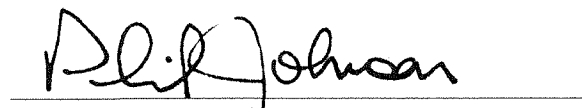

Harriet O'Neill, Justice



J. Dale Wainwright, Justice


Scott Brister, Justice

David M. Medina, Justice


Paul W. Green, Justice


Phil Johnson, Justice


Don R. Willett, Justice

Part 4.
Rules for Disposition of Family Law Cases

Rule 4.01: General Disposition Rules

- (1) ADR. It shall be the policy of the family law courts of Tarrant County to encourage the amicable resolution of family law litigation, including the use of alternative dispute resolution. On its own motion, motion of a party or by agreement of the parties, the Court may refer a case to alternative dispute resolution pursuant to Chapter 154, Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code, and 6.602 and 153.0071 of the Texas Family Code. On its own motion, motion of a party or by agreement of the parties, the Court may refer a case to access facilitation.

In a case selected for mediation, the Court encourages parties to choose their own mediator. The Court, if requested, shall appoint a mediator who has substantial family law mediation experience.

- (2) Co-Parenting Education. Pursuant to Texas Family Code Sec. 153.001, it shall be the policy of the family law courts of Tarrant County to:
- a. Assure that children will have frequent and continuing contact with parents who have shown the ability to act in the best interest of the child;
 - b. Provide a safe, stable, and nonviolent environment for the child; and
 - c. Encourage parents to share in the rights and duties of raising their child after the parents have separated or dissolved their marriage.

On its own motion, motion of a party or by agreement of the parties, the Court may order parties to attend co-parenting education for the purpose of promoting this policy. The courts hereby encourage all parties to suits affecting the parent-child relationship to attend these types of classes.

- (3) Pre-Trial. Pre-trial hearings or orders will not be required in every case, but each Court may establish its own pre-trial procedures pursuant to Rule 166, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure. A pre-trial conference may be set on the Court's own motion or proper request of a party. If a pre-trial conference is set, counsel or parties pro se will be expected at pre-trial to advise the Court which issues will be disputed and the time required for trial.

Counsel attending the pre-trial shall be the lead attorney or shall be familiar with the case and the party's position on the law and facts, and authorized to make stipulations of fact. Counsel shall not send a non-attorney to a pre-trial hearing. Parties appearing pro se must attend the pre-trial in person.

When counsel or a party pro se, after notice, fails to appear at pre-trial the Court may:

- a. Rule on all motions, dilatory pleas and exceptions in the absence of such person, including declaring such to be waived;
 - d. Advance or delay the trial setting according to the convenience of persons present;
 - e. Pass and reset the pre-trial;
 - f. Decline to set the case for trial or cancel a pending setting;
 - g. Dismiss the case for want of prosecution or grant a default judgment, as appropriate, provided counsel and pro se parties were properly notified to appear; and/or
 - h. Grant sanctions or other relief.
- (4) Stipulations. It is the responsibility of each attorney to stipulate all accurate facts not in dispute, and to waive formal proof as to any document to be introduced about which there is no reasonable dispute as to authenticity.
- (5) Notice. Unless otherwise ordered, all notice provisions and time periods provided by the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, Family Code, Government Code, and any other applicable statute shall be followed. Unless specifically shortened by the court, a party responding to a request for temporary relief contained in an original action shall be entitled to at least 3 days notice of any hearing. No hearing for relief, temporary or final, shall be set prior to answer date in any Motion to Modify for child support and/or possession, unless special circumstances set forth by attached affidavit exist .
- (6) Announcement of Time. When requested by the Court, it is the responsibility of each attorney to provide the Court with a reasonably accurate estimate of the time required for the Court to hear a matter. The Court may impose a reasonable time limitation upon counsel and pro se parties to present their cases, within the confines of due process.
- (7) Child Support. Every temporary or final order submitted to the Court for approval, which contains provisions ordering the payment of child support, shall contain a paragraph ordering the parties to pay the appropriate fees that may be charged by the agency to whom child support is paid, in such language as may be approved by the Court.
- (8) Medical Support Order. Every final order submitted to the Court for approval which contains provisions for child support shall be accompanied by a medical support order in conformance with the requirements of 154.181 of the Texas Family Code.

- (9) Income Withholding. Every final order submitted to the Court for approval which contains provisions for child support shall be accompanied by a order or writ for income withholding in accordance with Chapter 158 of the Texas Family Code and a completed Tarrant County Child Support Office Record of Support Form.
- (10) Forms. All appropriate state and local forms shall be completed and delivered to the Court Clerk with all proposed Orders or Decrees to be left with the Clerk for consideration by the Court.
- (11) Motion to Transfer, Consolidate, or Dismiss.
11.1 Within Tarrant County, Texas every motion for transfer, consolidation or joint hearing of two or more cases under Rule 174(a), Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, shall be filed in the earliest filed case. The Motion shall have the cause number and style of each applicable case. Notice of the hearing shall be given to all parties in all actions pursuant to Texas Rules of Civil Procedure 21 and 21a. If granted, the other Tarrant County Family District Court shall enter an order transferring all other actions into the earliest filed case, except in situations where a suit affecting parent child relationship is pending and a subsequent divorce is filed in which case the transfer or consolidation shall be done pursuant to the Texas Family Code.

11.2 If any action is dismissed or non-suited by any party, and is refiled within ninety (90) days and assigned to a different Court, either party or the Court may move to transfer the case to the Court in which the first suit was filed within the time limits provided by Section 155.204 of the Texas Family Code. Absent good cause shown, transfer shall be granted upon notice and hearing.
- (12) Motion Practice
12.1 Parties are directed to use all reasonable means to resolve pre-trial disputes to avoid the necessity of judicial intervention.

12.2 No motions, objections or special exceptions will be set for hearing unless the moving party shall have certified in such motion or in a letter substantially the following:

"A conference was held on (date) with (name of attorney for opposing party) on the merits of this motion. A reasonable effort has been made to resolve the dispute without the necessity of court intervention and the effort failed. Therefore it is presented to the Court for determination."

OR

"A conference was not held with (name of opposing attorney) on the merits of this motion because (explanation of inability to confer)."

- 12.3 Court Coordinators are responsible for scheduling the dates and times for hearings. The moving party shall attempt to secure agreed upon dates for hearing prior to setting the same. Upon receiving the date and time of hearing, the moving party shall immediately notify all other parties in writing as to the date, time and subject matter of the hearing. A copy of this communication shall be provided to the Court Coordinator.
- 12.4 On request of a party and with consent of the Judge, a matter not requiring a record by the Court Reporter may be conducted by telephone. The moving party shall be responsible for advising opposing parties of the method and time of hearing and shall be responsible for arranging the conference call.
- 12.5 By agreement, parties may submit matters for ruling by the Judge without a personal appearance and oral presentation. The Judge should be advised in writing when such procedure is desired.

(13) Ex Parte Orders

- 13.1 All applications for ex parte orders shall first be presented for determination to the Court in which the case is pending, and only if the Court is unavailable to promptly review same, may it be presented to another Court.
- 13.2 Prior to presentment, all applications for ex parte orders shall certify in writing, signed by the party or attorney, one of the following which is to be completed as to each opposing counsel:

I hereby certify as follows: (check off and fill in blanks as required)

1. To the best of my knowledge, there is no attorney of record representing any opposing party at this time; or
2. Prior to presenting this matter to a Judge for approval, I contacted all attorneys of record, transmitted a copy of the pleadings and proposed order in this matter, and notified them that I was requesting such ex parte relief, and;
 - A. After conferring, no attorney of record wishes to be heard prior to the presentment of this request for ex parte relief; or,
 - B. We were unable to reach an agreement, at which time I notified all attorneys of record that I would present this matter

to the Judge at (time) on (date) in the (court) and invited them to attend and be heard prior to signing; or,

C. I was unable to speak with the opposing attorney(s) and I left word with a staff person for each attorney that I would present this matter to the Judge at (time) on, (date) in the (court) and invited them to attend and be heard prior to signing; or,

D. After diligent attempts, I was unable to reach the opposing attorney(s).

For purposes of this rule, representation of counsel ends thirty-one (31) days following entry of a final order.

(14) Pleadings Must Be Titled & Have Holes Punched. All pleadings, motions, orders, and other papers, when offered for filing or entry shall comply with TRCP Rule 45 and shall be descriptively titled and pre-punched at the top of the page to accommodate the Clerk's filing system. Each instrument shall be numbered and titled at the bottom of each page.

(15) Ad Litem Entitled to All Pleadings. When the court appoints an amicus attorney, attorney ad litem, or an attorney serving in a dual role, all counsel shall provide such appointee with copies of their pleadings, orders, and reports filed with the Court, within five days (5) of notice of the appointment.

(16) Lawyers Creed & Code of Judicial Conduct. Counsel and parties shall treat the Court, court personnel, each other and trial participants in a manner consistent with the Texas Lawyers Creed.

The Court and court personnel shall treat attorneys, parties and trial participants in a manner consistent with the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct.

(17) Vacation Letters. Each attorney in charge shall have the right to designate a reasonable number of vacation days and days of continuing legal education, provided he notifies the clerk of the Court and all opposing counsel in writing at least 30 days prior to such designated dates, and provided said dates do not conflict with a current setting for trial, hearing, deposition, inspection, mediation or discovery deadline in the case. During the dates designated in said letter, opposing counsel and parties shall not set any matter for deposition, inspection, mediation or hearing except for emergency situations requiring immediate action. If a matter is set during the dates designated in said letter, the Court may cancel the setting and/or reschedule it upon oral or written motion of a party or the Court's own motion.

(18) Proper Courtroom Decorum.

18.1 All attorneys shall be responsible for advising their clients and witnesses of appropriate courtroom conduct, attire, and policy regarding children.

- 18.2. Pagers, beepers, and telephones should be turned off when a person is in the courtroom. If the device can be on without making a sound (except the vibration) it may remain on if kept in that mode. Failure to follow this rule may result in a finding of contempt, fine or other sanction.

Absent medical necessity, the following shall not be acceptable in the courtroom: hats, bandanas or other headgear, shorts, bare midriffs, tank tops, tattered or dirty clothing.

- 18.3 There will be no eating, drinking or chewing gum in the courtroom unless the Court has expressly stated otherwise.
- 18.4 There will be no outbursts, disturbances, threats, obscene language, or gestures.
- 18.5 Violation of the courtroom decorum may result in immediate expulsion of the person who is violating the same or a finding of contempt, fine or other sanction.

- (19) Pro Se Litigants. Rules for attorneys apply equally to pro se litigants. All requirements of these rules applicable to attorneys or counsel; apply with equal force to pro se litigants. Pro se litigants are required to provide addresses and telephone listings at which they can be reached by court personnel and opposing counsel. Failure to accept delivery or to pick up mail addressed to the address provided by pro se litigants will be considered constructive receipt of the mail or delivered document which may be established by postal service receipt, certified or registered mail receipt, or comparable proof of delivery.

Rule 4.02: Prove-Ups and Default Hearings

- (1) Times. Each Court shall hear agreed cases and defaults daily, at times set by each Court. It will not be necessary to schedule agreed prove-ups and default hearings with the Court, and such are heard on a first-come-first-served basis, with the exception that the Court may first hear cases in which a party is appearing with counsel in order to minimize attorneys fees. A Court may cancel its daily uncontested hearings as may be required by other Court business. Notice of such cancellation shall be posted outside the Court, and parties and their attorneys may proceed as set forth in 4.02(2) below. Agreed prove ups and defaults maybe heard at other times during the day if the court is available.
- (2) Presiding Judge. Agreed cases and default hearings should normally be heard by the District Judge sitting in the Court to which the case is assigned. If that Judge is not available, then it may be heard by any other District Judge

who so consents. Unless otherwise directed by the Court, multiple uncontested matters originating out of different Courts may be presented to one court for hearing. Once a case has been presented to a Judge, and the Judge has made a ruling or deferred ruling, the same matter may not be presented to a Judge other than the Judge to whom it was first presented without that Judge's approval. With the consent of the Court, agreed cases, not requiring a record, may be presented to the Associate Judge of the Court for hearing as permitted by 201.005, 201.007, and 201.104 of the Texas Family Code.

- (3) Court's File. Any attorney presenting an uncontested matter to the Court for hearing shall obtain the Court's File of such case from the District Clerk's office prior to appearance before the Court. The Court's File shall be delivered to the Court's bailiff, or other person designated by the Court, for consideration by the Court. When the File is so delivered, it shall contain the proposed Decree or Order, all other necessary pleadings, and all other documents required under Rule 4.01 above.
- (4) Record. If a record of testimony is required, the attorney or pro se litigant shall so notify the bailiff, or other person designated by the Court, and shall complete any additional forms as may be required by the Court to be delivered to the court reporter prior to appearance before the Court.

Rule 4.03: Trial Settings

- (1) Final Trial. Cases will be set for final trial upon written request using the procedure and form as may be required by the specific Court. Each Court's procedure and setting request form shall be obtained from the Court's coordinator.
- (2) Final Trial Before Associate Judges. Upon agreement of the parties and counsel of record, the Court may refer a case for final disposition by the Associate Judge of that court if the parties agree to waive their right of appeal to the referring court pursuant to 201.015 and 201.1042 of the Texas Family Code.
- (3) Specially Set Case. Cases specially set shall take precedence over all other matters in all other Family District Courts, except matters entitled to preference by law and matters commenced but not completed in the preceding week. Other engagements of counsel or parties shall not be grounds for postponement of a case specially set, unless good cause is shown on a timely filed motion. No party shall specially set a case that conflicts with another court setting of said party or his or her attorney. If a person with a special setting obtains a subsequent setting which conflicts with such

special setting, that person must, within two (2) business days, notify the court setting the later matter and opposing party of the conflict.

Rule 4.04: Associate Judges and Associate Judges for Title IV-D Cases.

(1) Cases Referred. Each court may refer any aspect of a family law case to the Associate Judge or Associate Judges for Title IV-D Cases, that is consistent with Chapter 201 Sub-chapter A and B of the Texas Family Code. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, the following matters will normally be so referred:

- 1.1 Requests for Temporary Orders in any case, including custody.
- 1.2 Motions to Modify on Temporary or Final Order, except for final custody modifications.
- 1.3 Motions to Transfer.
- 1.4 Motions for Enforcement or Contempt.
- 1.5 An action under Chapter 159 of the Texas Family Code.
- 1.6 Applications for Protective Orders.
- 1.7 Discovery matters.
- 1.8 Motions to Compel or for Sanctions.
- 1.9 Motions for Judgment, Entry, or to Sign Orders, if the hearing, the subject of the proposed Order, was heard by the Associate Judge.
- 1.10 Motions to Withdraw.
- 1.11 Pre-Trial Conferences.
- 1.12 Any other matter referred by the Court.

The Court will not refer to the Associate Judges for Title IV-D cases, and Associate Judges for Title IV-D cases shall not hear final trials involving divorce proceedings. The Court may decline to refer to the Associate Judges for Title IV-D cases, and the Associate Judges for Title IV-D cases shall not hear any matters listed above as is consistent with 201.104 of the Texas Family Code.

- (2) Settings. Hearings before the Associate Judge shall be obtained from the coordinator of the appropriate Court and the appropriate written Order or Notice of Hearing shall be presented to the coordinator at the time the hearing is requested. The Court, in its discretion, may allow the setting or resetting of a hearing without a written Order or Notice, but the attorney requesting said setting or resetting shall send the coordinator and all parties written confirmation of the hearing date so set.
- (3) Times. Hearings before the Associate Judge shall be held daily at a specific time and place as directed by the Court. Each attorney and party appearing before the Associate Judge shall timely report to the bailiff assigned to said Associate Judge on the date of the hearing, and the Associate Judge, at his or her discretion, may request an announcement from counsel or pro se parties as to the issues in controversy and estimates of time required.

Rule 4.05: Trial Procedures

- (1) Timely Appearance. It is the responsibility of every attorney to timely appear before the Judge or Associate Judge, as appropriate, at the time of any trial or hearing. Unless otherwise directed by the Court, counsel shall check-in with the Court, or its bailiff, at or before the time the trial or hearing is set. If counsel is to be late for a trial or hearing or is in another Court, counsel or counsel's staff shall, by telephone or otherwise, notify the Court or its bailiff, giving the reason for the delay in appearance and specify which other Court(s) counsel is appearing before. Failure to appear or check-in with the Associate Judge or Court within 30 minutes of the scheduled hearing time shall result in a default being granted or the hearing being passed, as appropriate. Although it is the policy of the Courts to recognize the inevitable conflicts in an urban law practice and to be reasonably flexible, it is ultimately the responsibility of counsel to keep the Court accurately informed of counsel's whereabouts so that the Court's dockets will not be unduly disrupted. Violation of this rule may result in sanctions against counsel.
- (2) Documents Required. In all cases in which support of a spouse and/or child(ren) is in issue, whether temporary or final, each party shall be required to furnish the Court and opposing party true and correct copies of the following, at or before the time of hearing, if available:
 - 2.1 Summary statement of monthly income and expenses in a form substantially similar to any form that may be adopted by the Court.
 - 2.2 All payroll stubs or wage statements for the past 3 months.

- 2.3 If self-employed, all profit and loss statements, balance sheets, income statements or other evidence of earnings for the previous 12 months.
 - 2.4 Federal Income Tax Returns, including all attachments and schedules, for the two years immediately prior to the hearing, or if a return has not been prepared and filed for a particular year, all W-2's, 1099's, K-1's or other evidence of income for such a year.
 - 2.5 Financial Statements filed by the parties with any financial institution within the past 2 years.
 - 2.6 Any other documents as ordered by the Court, or properly subpoenaed by a party.
- (3) Inventories. When ordered by the Court, each party shall file a sworn inventory and appraisal within 60 days of the Court's order, unless the Court or the parties extend or shorten such period. An Inventory and Appraisal may be ordered in any case in which the character, value or division of property or debts is in issue, and should be filed in a form substantially similar to the form provided in the Texas Family Practice Manual of the State Bar of Texas. Additionally, each party shall at the time of trial prepare for the Court and opposing counsel a written summary of that party's proposed division of property and debts.
 - (4) Orders. Within 60 days after rendition of a decision by the Judge or Associate Judge, counsel shall cause, unless ordered otherwise, all orders, decrees or judgments of any kind to be reduced to writing, approved as to form by opposing counsel, and to be delivered to the court for signature. If counsel is unable to secure the approval as to form from opposing counsel, counsel shall file a motion for entry of the proposed order and secure a hearing on same no sooner than 10 days from the date of filing of the Motion. The party or counsel responding to such a motion shall at least 3 days prior to the hearing present to opposing counsel an alternative proposed order or a written list of objections to the first order. Failure to furnish the Court with a proposed order, decree or judgment or to schedule a hearing for entry within the 60 day period may result in the Court's placing the case on the dismissal docket.
 - (5) Court Reporters. A court reporter will be furnished to the Associate Judges for hearings only on the days that Enforcement/Contempt matters are to be heard, unless special arrangements are made with the referring Judge. Counsel shall be required to furnish his or her own court reporter, if desired, for all other hearings before the Associate Judge.

Rule 4.06: Continuances and Resets

- (1) Associate Judges and Associate Judges for Title IV-D cases. Unless otherwise directed by the Court, motions for continuance and resets may be presented to the Associate Judge without the necessity of a written motion being filed. If not agreed by all parties, said motion for continuance or reset must be made to the Associate Judge after all parties have been given notice and an opportunity to object.
- (2) Presiding Judges. No request for a continuance or resetting shall be granted by the presiding Judge of a Court without the filing of a written motion, notice and hearing, unless agreed by all parties, with the consent of the Court. All other requests shall be in writing pursuant to the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, filed with the Court, and shall be heard as may be scheduled by the Court after proper notice to all parties.

Rules 4.07 through 4.10 - Reserved

Rule 4.11: Discovery Guidelines

- (1) Full Discovery. As provided in the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure and appellate court rulings, the Courts shall permit full, liberal and broad discovery, however such discovery shall not be unlimited, and the reasonable parameters contained in 192 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, shall be applied in both letter and spirit.
- (2) Disputes. Counsel shall attempt to resolve any discovery question, problem or dispute before intervention by the Court. Any discovery motion shall contain a certificate by the party or counsel filing the same in accordance with rule 4.01 (13) 13.2 above.

No discovery motion shall be set for hearing or heard unless it contains such certificate, signed by counsel or pro se party.

- (3) Depositions. The following guidelines will generally be followed by the Courts on matters pertaining to oral depositions:
 - 3.1 A party filing an action in Tarrant County must give his or her deposition in Tarrant County, if requested.
 - 3.2 A Respondent properly sued in Tarrant County must give his or her deposition in Tarrant County, if requested.

- 3.3 The party initiating a deposition may elect to take the deposition orally or on written questions and the opposing party may elect to cross-examine orally or on written questions.
- 3.4 Unless agreed otherwise, fees charged by an expert for giving of deposition testimony shall be paid by the party requesting the deposition unless the expert is retained by the opposing party in which case fees shall be paid pursuant to 195.7 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.
- 3.5 The following shall be presumed to be unreasonable unless otherwise agreed or ordered:
- A. Notice of less than 10 days under Rules 21a and 199.2 Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.
 - B. Depositions scheduled for Saturday, Sunday or legal holidays in which the County Courthouse is closed.
 - C. Depositions scheduled to begin before 8:00 a.m. or to extend past 6:00 p.m.
- 3.6 A party initiating an oral deposition shall first attempt to communicate with all opposing counsels to determine whether agreement can be reached as to the date, time, place and materials to be furnished at the time of deposition. Any written notice of oral deposition shall state substantially as follows:

“A conference was held or attempted with the attorney for opposing party to agree on a date, time, place and materials to be furnished. Agreement could not be reached, or counsel will not respond, and the deposition is therefore being taken pursuant to this Notice (or) Agreement was reached and this Notice complies with the agreement.”

Failure to hold such conference or to make adequate attempt to hold such conference prior to noticing a deposition shall be grounds to quash the deposition.

- 3.7 Notwithstanding the above guidelines, the parties may agree to a different procedure, and nothing shall preclude a party from submitting disputes as to such matters to the Court for determination by proper motion and hearing pursuant to the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.

(4) Production. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, or agreed by the parties, the following times and locations for production shall be presumed to be reasonable:

4.1 For non-voluminous production, counsel for the party from whom the production is requested shall make and deliver copies of the documents to the office of counsel for the requesting party in accordance with the request.

4.2 For voluminous production, counsel for the party from whom the production is requested shall gather the documents at his or her office and inform requesting counsel that they are available. Requesting counsel shall then, at the option of requesting counsel, either pick up the documents to examine, copy and return within 5 working days, or examine and copy the documents at the office of producing counsel, with the expense of copying to be paid by requesting counsel.

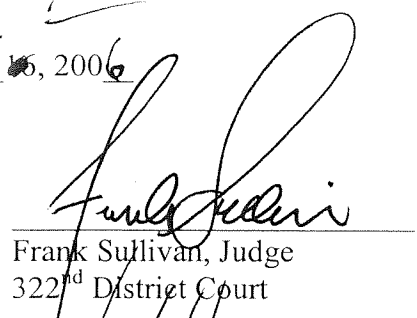
For purposes of this rule “voluminous production” shall be defined as the total documents produced, responsive to the request, being incapable of inclusion, in an orderly fashion, without overflow, within a “Bankers Box”; such being of the following dimensions: fifteen (15") inches long, twelve (12") inches wide, and ten (10") inches deep.

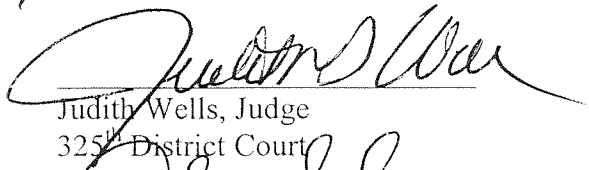
(5) Filing of Discovery. Notwithstanding Rule 1.07 of the Local Rules of Court, discovery matters shall be filed or not filed in accordance with 191.4 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.

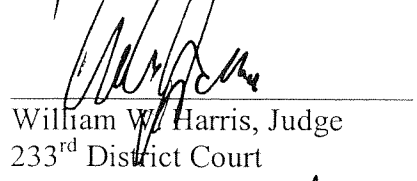
Rules 4.12 through 4.99 - Reserved

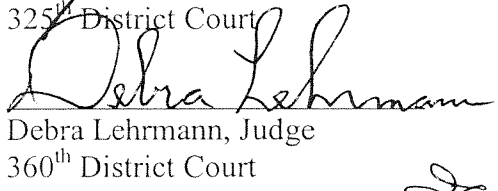
Part 4.
Adopted on October ~~16~~ ³¹, 2006

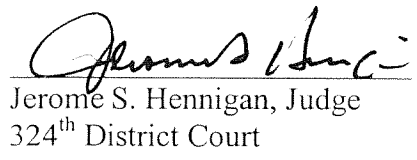

Randy Cafferton, Judge
231st District Court


Frank Sullivan, Judge
322nd District Court

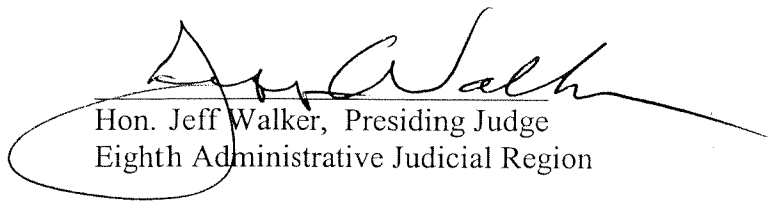

Judith Wells, Judge
325th District Court


William W. Harris, Judge
233rd District Court


Debra Lehmann, Judge
360th District Court


Jerome S. Hennigan, Judge
324th District Court

Approved this ~~31st~~ ^{8th} day of ~~October~~ ^{November}, 2006.


Hon. Jeff Walker, Presiding Judge
Eighth Administrative Judicial Region



CAROLYN STEWART
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NORMA A. BAZÁN
COURT COORDINATOR
(817) 884-1580

November 13, 2006

Supreme Court of Texas
P. O. Box 12248
Austin, TX 78711
Attn: Mr. Jody Hughes

Re: Local Rules for Disposition of Family Law Cases

Dear Mr. Hughes:

Enclosed please find the Local Rules for disposition of family law cases that have now been approved by the Family Law Judges and by Judge Jeff Walker, the presiding Judge for the 8th Administrative Judicial Region.

As you can see, we have deleted the provision for dilatory pleas that you believed may have been in violation of Rule 90 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure. We ask that the Rules be presented to the Court for approval.

If additional information is needed, please let me know. Also, if you will contact me with any questions that the Court may have or if you will contact me once the Rules are approved, it will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you again for your time and cooperation in connection with this matter, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours very truly,


Randy Catterton

RC/nab
Enclosure