

ORDER OF THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Misc. Docket No. 99-9216

**Approval of Local Electronic Filing Rules
for Val Verde County, Texas**


IT IS ORDERED that:

Pursuant to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 3a, the Supreme Court of Texas approves the attached local rules establishing a system for electronic filing of documents in Val Verde County, Texas. This order is temporary pending further orders of this Court.

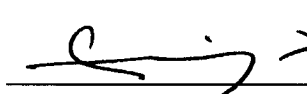
By the Court, en banc, in chambers, this 2nd day of November, 1999.



Thomas R. Phillips, Chief Justice



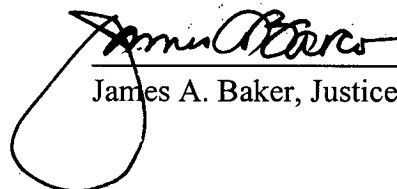
Nathan L. Hecht, Justice



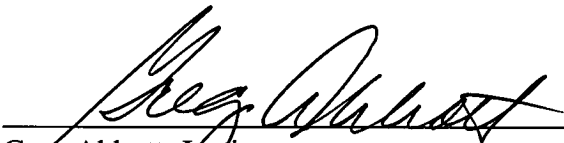
Craig T. Enoch, Justice



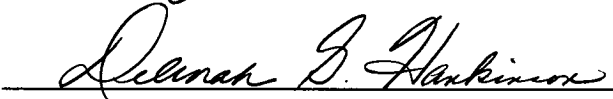
Priscilla R. Owen, Justice



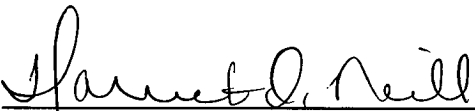
James A. Baker, Justice




Greg Abbott, Justice



Deborah G. Hankinson, Justice



Harriet O'Neill, Justice



Alberto R. Gonzales, Justice

ORDER ESTABLISHING A SYSTEM FOR
ELECTRONIC FILING OF DOCUMENTS IN
VAL VERDE COUNTY, TEXAS

The District Courts and County Court At Law (Family Law Cases) of Val Verde County, Texas hereby adopt the following system for the electronic filing of documents by the District Clerk of Val Verde County.

1. The District Clerk is authorized to accept for filing via electronic transmission any document which might be filed in a court action except: (a) returns of service of process; (b) bonds; or (c) signed orders or judgments.
2. Documents electronically transmitted for filing will be received by the Clerk on a plain paper facsimile and printed by a laser printer, thereby rendering the copy of archival quality. No document printed on thermal paper shall be filed.
3. No document electronically transmitted shall be considered completely filed until court costs and fees have been paid. Court costs and fees may be paid from Escrow Accounts deposited with the Clerk or by electronic funds transfer established with the Clerk and the guidelines and procedures established by the Clerk and County Auditor. Documents tendered to the Clerk electronically without payment of court costs, fees, and electronic transmission fees, with incomplete information on the charge authorization or request, without immediate wire transfer or which do not conform to applicable rules, may be stricken by the Court if such defects are not promptly cured.
4. A fee schedule for electronic filing shall be adopted annually by the clerk and approved by the Local Courts.
5. An electronically transmitted document accepted for filing will be recognized as the Original Record for file or for evidentiary purposes when it bears the clerk's official date and time file stamp.
6. Every document electronically transmitted for filing shall conform to the requirements for filing established by the Texas Rules of Court Procedure, Section 4, Rule 45, I.E., shall be on paper measuring approximately 8 1/2 X 11 inches, shall be signed individually by the party or the party's attorney of record, and shall contain that individual's State Bar of Texas Identification Number, if any, address, telephone number

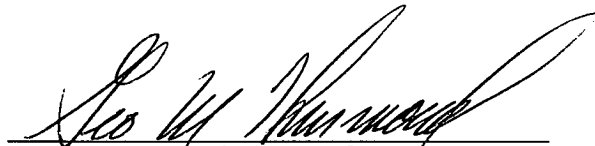
and tele-copier number. The quality of the original hard copy shall be clear and hard enough to transmit legibly.

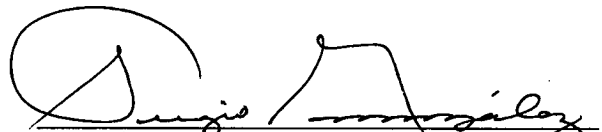
7. The sender shall maintain the original of the document with original signature affixed as required by Section 51.806, Texas Government Code.
8. A cover sheet must accompany every transmission which shall:
 - (A) clearly identify the sender, the document being transmitted and the number of pages;
 - (B) have clear and concise instructions concerning issuance or other request;
 - (C) have complete information on the charge authorization for court costs and fees.
9. The Clerk upon receipt of an electronically transmitted document shall verify the completeness of the transmission.
10. The Clerk when satisfied that the transmission is complete shall confirm the charge authorization and note the authorization code on the cost receipt. Thereafter, the documents tendered electronically shall be deemed completely filed and the Clerk shall affix the Clerk's official date and time file stamp to the document.
11. If the transmission is found to be incomplete or court costs or fees, if required, are not paid, the Clerk will notify the sender as soon as practicable that the transmission has not been filed and the reason.
12. After filing an electronically transmitted document, the Clerk will electronically transmit to the sender an acknowledgement of the filing, together with cost receipt, if any.
13. No citation or writ bearing the official seal of the Courts may be transmitted electronically.
14. Electronic transmission of a document does not complete filing. Filing is complete when the Clerk's official date and time file stamp is affixed to the document.
15. Each page of any document received by the Clerk will be automatically imprinted with the date and time of receipt. The date and time imprinted on the last page of the document will determine the time of filing, upon completion of filing. Transmissions completed during a

normal business day before 12:00 midnight and accepted for filing will be filed as of the day of receipt. Transmissions completed after 12:00 midnight, on weekends or holidays will be verified and filed before 10:00 A.M. on the first business day following receipt of transmission. The sender is responsible for determining if there are any changes in normal business hours.

It is therefore ORDERED that this system for electronic filing of documents in the District Courts and County Court at Law (Family Law Cases) of Val Verde County, Texas be, and the same is adopted, effective upon approval by the Supreme Court of Texas for approval as provided by Section 51.807, Texas Government Code; and that upon approval by the Supreme Court of Texas the same be placed upon the Minutes of the District Courts and County Court At Law (Family Law Cases) of Val Verde County, Texas.

SIGNED this the 7th day of October, 1999.


George M. Thurmond
Judge, 63rd Judicial District


Sergio J. Gonzalez
Judge, County Court at Law
(Family Law Cases)

Alex R. Gonzalez
Judge, 83rd Judicial District



THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

CHIEF JUSTICE
THOMAS R. PHILLIPS

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CLERK
JOHN T. ADAMS

JUSTICES
NATHAN L. HECHT
CRAIG T. ENOCH
PRISCILLA R. OWEN
JAMES A. BAKER
GREG ABBOTT
DEBORAH G. HANKINSON
HARRIET O'NEILL
ALBERTO R. GONZALES

EXECUTIVE ASS'T
WILLIAM L. WILLIS

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE ASS'T
JIM HUTCHESON

ADMINISTRATIVE ASS'T
NADINE SCHNEIDER

November 2, 1999

Hon. George M. Thurmond
Admin. Judge and Judge
63rd District Court
Post Office Drawer 1089
Del Rio, Texas 78841-1089

Dear Judge Thurmond,

Please find enclosed, a copy of the order of the Supreme Court that temporarily approved local rules for the courts of Val Verde County.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

John T. Adams
Clerk

Encl.

cc: Hon. Stephen B. Ables
6th Admin Judicial Rgn

Hon. Sergio J. Gonzalez

District Clerk
County Clerk

Supreme Court Adv Committee

Mr. Jerry Benedict
Office of Court Admin

State Law Library