

# Supreme Court of Texas

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Misc. Docket No. 26-9054

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**Preliminary Approval of Amendments to  
Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 13 and  
Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure 9 and 52 and  
the Repeal of Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 57**

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**ORDERED** that:

1. The Court invites public comments on proposed amendments to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 13 and Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure 9 and 52 and the proposed repeal of Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 57, as set forth in this order.
2. Comments regarding the amendments should be submitted in writing to [rulescomments@txcourts.gov](mailto:rulescomments@txcourts.gov) by September 1, 2026.
3. The Court will issue an order finalizing the amendments after the close of the comment period. The Court may change the amendments in response to public comments. The Court expects the amendments to take effect on October 1, 2026.
4. The proposed amendments to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 13 are shown in both clean and redline forms. All other proposed changes are shown in redline form only.
5. The Clerk is directed to:
  - a. file a copy of this order with the Secretary of State;
  - b. send a copy of this order to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and each elected member of the Legislature; and
  - c. submit a copy of this order for publication in the *Texas Register*.

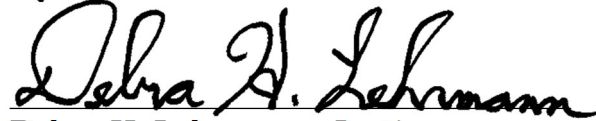
6. The State Bar of Texas is directed to:
  - a. cause a copy of this order to be sent to each registered member of the State Bar of Texas by email; and
  - b. cause a copy of this order to be mailed to each registered member of the State Bar of Texas by publication in the *Texas Bar Journal*.

Date: June 26, 2026.



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James D. Blacklock, Chief Justice



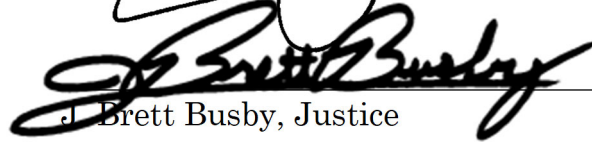
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Debra H. Lehrmann, Justice



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John P. Devine, Justice



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J. Brett Busby, Justice



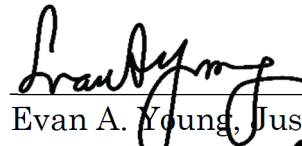
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Jane N. Bland, Justice



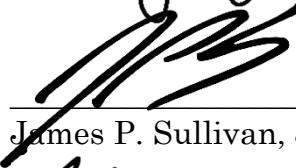
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Rebeca A. Huddle, Justice



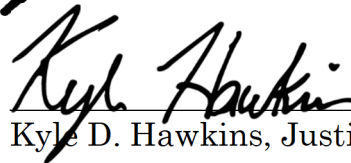
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Evan A. Young, Justice



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James P. Sullivan, Justice



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Kyle D. Hawkins, Justice

## Texas Rules of Civil Procedure

### **RULE 13. ~~EFFECT OF SIGNING PLEADINGS, MOTIONS AND OTHER PAPERS; SIGNING FILINGS; REPRESENTATIONS TO COURT;~~ SANCTIONS (Redline Form)**

- (a) Signature Required. A party's pleading, plea, motion, or other paper filed with the court must be signed:
- (1) if the party is represented by an attorney, by at least one attorney of record in the attorney's individual name; or
  - (2) if the party is self-represented, by the party.
- (b) Contact Information Required.
- (1) An attorney who signs a court filing must list the attorney's State Bar of Texas identification number, address, telephone number, and email address.
  - (2) A party who signs a court filing must list the party's address, telephone number, and email address.
- (c) Representations by Signer. ~~The signatures of attorneys or parties constitute a certificate by them that they have read the pleading, motion, or other paper; By signing a court filing, the signer represents to the court that:~~
- (1) the signer reviewed the filing and verified its accuracy, including that the legal citations, quotations, and holdings are not fabricated; and
  - (2) to the best of ~~their~~the signer's knowledge, information, and belief formed after reasonable inquiry the instrumentfiling is not groundless, and brought in bad faith, or groundless and brought for the purpose of harassment. Attorneys or parties who shall bring a fictitious suit as an experiment to get an opinion of the court, or who shall file any fictitious pleading in a cause for such a purpose, or shall make statements in pleading which they know to be groundless and false, for the purpose of securing a delay of the trial of the cause, shall be held guilty of a contempt.
- (d) Groundless Defined. "Groundless" for purposes of this rule means no basis in law or fact and not warranted by good faith argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law.
- (e) Sanctions.

- (1) Court Authority. ~~If a pleading, motion or other paper is signed in violation of this rule, the~~ court ~~may, upon~~ motion or ~~upon~~ its own initiative, ~~after notice and hearing, shall~~ impose an appropriate sanctions ~~available under Rule 215-2b, upon the person who signed it, a represented party, or both. for a filing inconsistent with the representations in (c) after providing the signer with notice and a reasonable opportunity to respond.~~
- (2) Available Sanctions. ~~Available sanctions may include reprimand, contempt, striking of the filing in whole or in part, dismissal of proceedings, costs, or attorney's fees. Any sanction must be proportionate to the violation found. A court must impose lesser sanctions before holding the signer in contempt, striking a filing, or dismissing a proceeding or explain in the order why lesser sanctions are insufficient to promote compliance.~~
- (3) Presumption. ~~A~~ courts ~~shall~~ must presume that pleadings, motions, and other papers are filed in good faith.
- (4) Order. ~~No~~ A sanctions ~~imposed~~ under this rule ~~may~~ must be imposed ~~except set forth in a written order that for good cause, the particulars of which must be stated~~s in the sanction order ~~the reasons for the sanction. "Groundless" for purposes of this rule means no basis in law or fact and not warranted by good faith argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law.~~
- (5) Pleadings Not Sanctionable. A general denial does not constitute a violation of this rule. The amount requested for damages does not constitute a violation of this rule.

### Notes and Comments

Comment to 1990 change: To require notice and hearing before a court determines to impose sanctions, to specify that any sanction imposed be appropriate, and to eliminate the 90-day "grace" period provided in the former version of the rule.

Comment to 2026 change: Rule 13 has been rewritten to modernize the rule and reinforce the obligation of attorneys and self-represented parties to verify documents filed with the court. Paragraphs (a) and (b) incorporate the requirements in current Rule 57. Paragraph (c)(1) is adopted principally to address concerns about the improper use of artificial intelligence in filings, which increases the risk of fabricated authorities, quotations, and holdings appearing in court filings. Verifying a filing for accuracy is important, regardless of whether artificial intelligence was

used. The rule is not intended to govern disputes regarding the interpretation, application, or persuasive force of existing authorities. Paragraph (e)(1) requires the court to give the signer a reasonable opportunity to respond before imposing a sanction. Paragraph (e)(2) imports available sanctions from Rule 215, tailoring them for filings instead of discovery.

**RULE 13. SIGNING FILINGS; REPRESENTATIONS TO COURT;  
SANCTIONS (Clean Form)**

- (a) *Signature Required.* A party's pleading, plea, motion, or other paper filed with the court must be signed:
- (1) if the party is represented by an attorney, by at least one attorney of record in the attorney's individual name; or
  - (2) if the party is self-represented, by the party.
- (b) *Contact Information Required.*
- (1) An attorney who signs a court filing must list the attorney's State Bar of Texas identification number, address, telephone number, and email address.
  - (2) A party who signs a court filing must list the party's address, telephone number, and email address.
- (c) *Representations by Signer.* By signing a court filing, the signer represents to the court that:
- (1) the signer reviewed the filing and verified its accuracy, including that the legal citations, quotations, and holdings are not fabricated; and
  - (2) to the best of the signer's knowledge, information, and belief formed after reasonable inquiry the filing is not groundless, brought in bad faith, or brought for the purpose of harassment.
- (d) *Groundless Defined.* "Groundless" for purposes of this rule means no basis in law or fact and not warranted by good faith argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law.
- (e) *Sanctions.*
- (1) **Court Authority.** A court may, on motion or its own initiative, impose appropriate sanctions for a filing inconsistent with the representations

in (c) after providing the signer with notice and a reasonable opportunity to respond.

- (2) Available Sanctions. Available sanctions may include reprimand, contempt, striking of the filing in whole or in part, dismissal of proceedings, costs, or attorney’s fees. Any sanction must be proportionate to the violation found. A court must impose lesser sanctions before holding the signer in contempt, striking a filing, or dismissing a proceeding or explain in the order why lesser sanctions are insufficient to promote compliance.
- (3) Presumption. A court must presume that pleadings, motions, and other papers are filed in good faith.
- (4) Order. A sanction imposed under this rule must be set forth in a written order that states the reasons for the sanction.
- (5) Pleadings Not Sanctionable. A general denial does not constitute a violation of this rule. The amount requested for damages does not constitute a violation of this rule.

### Notes and Comments

Comment to 1990 change: To require notice and hearing before a court determines to impose sanctions, to specify that any sanction imposed be appropriate, and to eliminate the 90-day “grace” period provided in the former version of the rule.

Comment to 2026 change: Rule 13 has been rewritten to modernize the rule and reinforce the obligation of attorneys and self-represented parties to verify documents filed with the court. Paragraphs (a) and (b) incorporate the requirements in current Rule 57. Paragraph (c)(1) is adopted principally to address concerns about the improper use of artificial intelligence in filings, which increases the risk of fabricated authorities, quotations, and holdings appearing in court filings. Verifying a filing for accuracy is important, regardless of whether artificial intelligence was used. The rule is not intended to govern disputes regarding the interpretation, application, or persuasive force of existing authorities. Paragraph (e)(1) requires the court to give the signer a reasonable opportunity to respond before imposing a sanction. Paragraph (e)(2) imports available sanctions from Rule 215, tailoring them for filings instead of discovery.

#### **RULE 57. ~~SIGNING OF PLEADINGS~~ Repealed effective October 1, 2026**

~~Every pleading of a party represented by an attorney shall be signed by at least one attorney of record in his individual name, with his State Bar of Texas identification number, address, telephone number, email address, and if available, fax number. A~~

~~party not represented by an attorney shall sign his pleadings, state his address, telephone number, email address, and, if available, fax number.~~

### ~~Notes and Comments~~

~~———Comment to 1990 change: To supply attorney telecopier information with other identifying information on pleadings. Documents telephonically transferred are permitted to be filed under changes in Rule 45.~~

## Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure

### Rule 9. Documents Generally

#### 9.1. Signing

- (a) *Represented Parties.* If a party is represented by counsel, a document filed on that party's behalf must be signed by at least one of the party's attorneys. For each attorney whose name appears on a document as representing that party, the document must contain that attorney's State Bar of Texas identification number, mailing address, telephone number, ~~fax number, if any,~~ and email address.
- (b) *Unrepresented Parties.* A party not represented by counsel must sign any document that the party files and give the party's mailing address, telephone number, ~~fax number, if any,~~ and email address.
- (c) *Electronic Signatures.* A document that is electronically served, filed, or issued by a court or clerk is considered signed if the document includes:
  - (1) a "/s/" and name typed in the space where the signature would otherwise appear, unless the document is notarized or sworn; or
  - (2) an electronic image or scanned image of the signature.
- (d) *Representations by Signer.* By signing a filed document, the signer represents to the court that the signer has:
  - (1) reviewed the filing and verified its accuracy, including that the legal citations, quotations, holdings, and record citations are not fabricated; and

(2) to the best of the signer’s knowledge, information, and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, the filing is not groundless, brought in bad faith, or brought for the purpose of harassment.

(e) *Groundless Defined.* “Groundless” for purposes of this rule means no basis in law or fact and not warranted by good faith argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law.

(f) *Sanctions.*

(1) *Court Authority.* A court may, on motion or its own initiative, impose appropriate sanctions for a filing inconsistent with the representations in (d) after providing the signer with notice and a reasonable opportunity to respond.

(2) *Available Sanctions.* Available sanctions may include reprimand, contempt, striking of the filing in whole or in part, dismissal of proceedings, costs, or attorney’s fees. Any sanction must be proportionate to the violation found. A court must impose lesser sanctions before holding the signer in contempt, striking a filing, or dismissing a proceeding or explain in the order why lesser sanctions are insufficient to promote compliance.

(3) *Presumption.* A court must presume that documents are filed in good faith.

(4) *Order.* A sanction imposed under this rule must be set forth in a written order that states the reasons for the sanction.

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### **Notes and Comments**

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Comment to 2026 change: Rule 9.1(d) is added to clarify that by signing a filing, the signer is making certain representations to the court. One of those representations is that the signer reviewed and verified the filing. Paragraph (d)(1) is adopted principally to address concerns about the improper use of artificial intelligence in filings, which increases the risk of fabricated authorities, quotations, and holdings appearing in court filings. Verifying a filing for accuracy is important, regardless of whether artificial intelligence was used. The rule is not intended to govern disputes regarding the interpretation, application, or persuasive force of existing authorities. Rule 9.1(f) includes express sanction provisions to avoid uncertainty over an appellate court’s authority to impose sanctions in this context.

By including an express sanctions provision in (f), the Court does not intend to change or comment on—by negative implication or otherwise—an appellate court’s existing authority to impose sanctions for noncompliance with these rules generally.

## Rule 52. Original Proceedings

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### 52.11. ~~Groundless Petition or Misleading Statement or Record~~Sanctions

~~On motion of any party or on its own initiative, the court may—after notice and a reasonable opportunity to respond—impose just sanctions on a party or attorney who is not acting in good faith as indicated by any of the following:~~

~~(a) filing a petition that is clearly groundless;~~

~~(b) bringing the petition solely for delay of an underlying proceeding;~~

~~(c) grossly misstating or omitting an obviously important and material fact in the petition or response; or~~

(a) ~~(d)~~Omissions. In addition to sanctions for violations of Rule 9, the court may impose appropriate sanctions for filing an appendix or record that is clearly misleading because of the omission of obviously important and material evidence or documents.

(b) Notice, Opportunity to Respond, and Written Order Required. The court must follow the notice, response, and order procedures and other requirements in Rule 9.

## Notes and Comments

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Comment to 2026 change: Rule 52 is amended to align the requirements more closely with Rule 9 and Rule 53.