

STANDING ORDER REGARDING CELL PHONES, ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND ELECTRONIC RECORDING DEVICES

CALHOUN, DEWITT, GOLIAD, JACKSON, REFUGIO and VICTORIA COUNTY DISTRICT COURTS

This Standing Order of the District Courts of Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Refugio and Victoria Counties applies to every pending or hereafter filed case in the District Courts of the named counties. 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.

Individuals may bring cell phones and electronic devices into any courtroom in which a District Court is conducting any hearing and/or trial, ***subject to the security policies of the respective courthouse.*** For security reasons, however, individuals may be asked to demonstrate the cell phone or electronic device to a Court security officer, bailiff or other law enforcement officer that the device works as intended.

The photographing, recording, posting on social media, broadcasting or televising of any person, object, document, or proceeding inside the courtroom in which a District Court is conducting any hearing, trial, or proceedings is not permitted, unless authorized by the Court. [See Rule No. 13.10, entitled "Photography or Recording in the Courtroom", of the Local Rules for District Courts of Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Refugio and Victoria Counties]. Court security officers, bailiffs and other law enforcement officers shall be extra vigilant in ensuring that cellular telephones with camera capabilities, cameras or other recording devices are not used to photograph, record, broadcast, or televise any person, object or proceeding. Any individual who violates this Order may be subject to being removed from the courtroom and having his or her electronic device or cell phone temporarily forfeited to the court security officers, bailiffs, or other law enforcement officers.

Cellular telephones and other electronic devices **must** be turned off while inside any courtroom.

Cellular telephones may be used outside of the courtrooms provided that they are used in a reasonable and non-disruptive manner.

IT IS ORDERED that no person, other than the court reporter, may record a court proceeding without the Court's express permission. This prohibition applies to all persons, including members of the public or media viewing or listening to court proceedings and it applies whether the hearing is in the courtroom, on zoom or YouTube or any other broadcasting means.

Any person found in violation of this order could face monetary sanction or criminal contempt. Each violation of this order could result in a fine up to \$500 and a sentence of confinement in the county jail for up to six (6) months.

Each District Court reserves the right to modify or waive this Order on a case-by-case basis.

This Standing Order is not applicable to attorneys and their staff, as to the use of cellular phones and electronic devices. The prohibition of using any device to photograph, record, post on social media, broadcast, or televise any person, object or proceeding **IS** applicable to attorneys and their staff.

This Order is effective immediately for all cases filed or pending in the District Courts of Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Refugio and Victoria Counties. This Order remains in effect until rescinded or replaced by the District Courts of Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Refugio and Victoria Counties and may be modified or amended at any time.

The District Clerks for Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Refugio and Victoria Counties are directed to file this Order with the Office of Court Administration, to post it in the respective county's administrative orders, and to ensure that a file-marked copy is posted as a Public Notice at the clerk's respective County Courthouse and on the respective County's website.

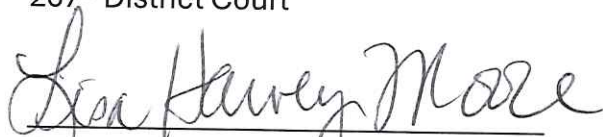
SIGNED this 1st day of May, 2026.



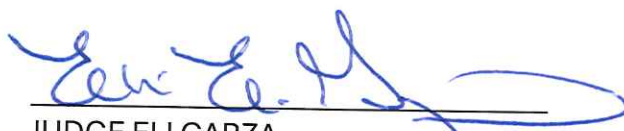
JUDGE KEMPER STEPHEN WILLIAMS
135th District Court



JUDGE JULIE C. BAUKNIGHT
267th District Court



JUDGE LISA HARVEY MOORE
24th District Court



JUDGE ELI GARZA
377th District Court