IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Misc. Docket No. 92-

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE LOCAL RULES OF THE DISTRICT COURTS, THE COUNTY COURTS AT LAW, AND THE PROBATE AND COUNTY COURT OF GALVESTON COUNTY

ORDERED:

Pursuant to Rule 3a of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, the Supreme Court approves the following local rules, which have been previously approved by the presiding judge of the appropriate administrative judicial region and submitted to this Court:

Amendments to the local Rules of the District Courts, the County Courts at Law, and the Probate and County Court of Galveston County, Texas, dated November 27, 1991

The approval of these rules is temporary, pending further orders of the Court.

SIGNED AND ENTERED this 7th day of JANUARY, 1992.

Thomas R. Philliam
Thomas R. Phillips, Chief Justice
Raul A. Gonzalez, Justice
Raul A. Gonzalez, Justice
Oscar H. Mauzy, Justice
Oscar H. Mauzy, Justice
Eugene A. Cook, Justice
Eugene A. Cook, Justice
XX VIII
Jack Hightower, Justice
William C. Sechel
Nathan L. Hecht, Justice
Lloyd Doggett, Justice
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John Jonn
John Cornyn, Justice
TS OF TOWN
Bob Gammage, Justice



STATE OF TEXAS

OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION

1414 COLORADO STREET, SUITE 602 Post Office Box 12066 Austin, Texas 78711-2066 512/463-1625

Jim Hutcheson General Counsel

December 27, 1991

Mr. John T. Adams Clerk, Supreme Court of Texas Price Daniel, Sr. State Office Building Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr. Adams:

C. Raymond Judice

Administrative Director

Enclosed is the original and a copy of a proposed Order of the Supreme Court approving the Amendments to the local Rules of the District Courts, the County Courts at Law, and the Probate and County Court of Galveston County, Texas, dated November 27, 1991.

After you have entered this proposed order on the Miscellaneous Docket of the Court, please forward the original of the proposed order to Justice Hecht's chambers for action by the Court.

Thank your for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

C. Raymond Judice Administrative Director

Enclosures

56th District Court Galveston County

COUNTY COURTHOUSE

GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550

I. ALLAN LERNER

JUDGE

December 17, 1991

The Supreme Court of Texas P. O. Box 12248
Austin, Texas 78711

ATTENTION: JOHN T. ADAMS

CLERK

Dear Mr. Adams:

Enclosed please find the proposed Amendments to the Local Rules of the District Courts, the County Courts at Law, and the Probate and County Court of Galveston County, Texas which were adopted by our local Judges on November 27, 1991 after publication.

Also enclosed is a letter from Judge Thomas J. Stovall, Jr. with his approval and comments.

We would very much appreciate it if you would present these amendments to the appropriate Judge of the Supreme Court for processing and approval of these proposed amendments.

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I. Allan Lerner, Judge

IAL/ka

enclosures: copy letter to Judge Stovall

copy letter from Judge Stovall

Proposed Amendments to the Local Rules



SECOND ADMINISTRATIVE JUDICIAL REGION OF TEXAS

THOMAS J. STOVALL, JR. PRESIDING JUDGE

JUDY MAPLES GEIGER ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

VIKKI NELSON REGIONAL DOCKET MANAGER

December 5, 1991

P.O. BOX 40, SEABROOK, TEX. 77586 PHONE (713) 471-3911

OFFICE LOCATED: HARRIS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LA PORTE ANNEX 117 E. AVE. A, LA PORTE, TEXAS

The Supreme Court of Texas P. O. Box 12248 Austin, TX., 78711

Re: Amendments to Local Rules Galveston County, Texas

Your Honors:

The enclosed Amendments to the Galveston County Local Rules have been reviewed by me. I recommend them to you for approval, with the following comments:

- 1. The current trend is to set out more Judge control over settings and these amendments seem counter to that goal. However, the local customs and climate seem to dictate a gradual approach to full docket control by the Judges. I have heard no complaints about this approach. There seems to be a 3 month delay built into the setting mechanism (Section 3.4.1, page 4).
- 2. Rule 4.1.2, Family Law/Juvenile case amendments, leave open for individual Courts hearing Juvenile cases to adopt inconsistent disposition rules. Uniformity should be sought or some sort of coordinating structure should be adopted for processing these cases. The word "handled", in the last sentence, should probably be "handle".
- 3. Rule 4.2.2 ..the words "under oath", following "verified", are probably surplus.
- 4. Rule 4.4. Attorneys seeking ex parte restraining orders are required to present them with the client. In some instances the client may not be able to attend, hospitalized by violent conduct, ill or in hiding.
- 5. Rule 4.8.4. The provision that "If a party fails to file an inventory, the one filing will be taken as uncontested", may cause

more problems than it solves. The filing party may have not known of some properties of the marriage or overlooked some. The better sanction would be to require a filing, or affirmative agreement with the one filed.

There is also enclosed Judge Lerner's transmittal letter and his summary of changes.

Your usual courtesy in these matters if appreciated.

Very truly yours,

cc: Honorable I. Allan Lerner

Judge, 56th Judicial District of Texas

Galveston County Courthouse

Galveston, Tx., 77550

56th District Court Galveston County

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550

I. ALLAN LERNER

JUDGE

December 3, 1991

Judge Thomas J. Stovall, Jr.
Second Administrative Judicial Region of Texas
P. O. Box 40
Seabrook, Texas 77586

Dear Tom:

Enclosed please find the proposed amendments to the Local Rules for the District Courts, the County Courts at Law, and the Probate and County Court of Galveston County which I discussed with you today together with a summary of the changes.

I would very much appreciate your reviewing these and if acceptable to you approve the same. They have been published for more than thirty days bringing it to the attention of attorneys practicing before the Courts involved in the rules changes.

If you have any questions about the inclosures please give me a call.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season.

Very truly yours,

I. Allan Lerner, Judge

IAL/ka

enclosures

SUMMARY OF LOCAL RULES CHANGES

The proposed Amendments to the Local Rules (1991) are made to accomplish the following changes some of which have already been placed into effect without formal amendment.

1) Provision is made for hearing matters by submission.

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- 2) Motions for summary judgment are to be heard by the Judge of the couin which the case was originally filed rather than the local civil Presiding Judge.
- 3) The local civil Presiding Judge is no longer responsible for summoning and empaneling jurors but rather a rotation of this responsibility is provided
- 4) Requesting cases for trial is changed in order to conform with Rule 2 amended September 1, 1990 which provides for 45 days notice of any trial setting Request now need to be made two months in advance and the certification previously required in the request for trial as to pleadings, etc. has be eliminated again to conform with the provisions of Rule 245.

Changes in disposition of all Family Law cases are made as follows:

- 1) All Family Law and Juvenile matters are incorporated under Rule 4.
- 2) Waiver hearings in Juvenile cases are changed from 30 days to 10 da following admission to detention.
- 3) All suits authorized under the Family code shall be filed by order (the 306 Family District court.
- 4) The time for filing inventory when required is changed from 40 days 75 days; failure to file may result in dismissal for want of prosecution.
- 5) Ex parte restraining orders in the 306th District Court will be grant only when presented by an attorney accompanied by his client. No ex par restraining order shall evict a parent from a home unless filed in conjunction with Chapter 71 T.F.C.
- 6) Possession of or access to a child including temporary orders shall pursuant to T.F.C. Section 14.03 and 14.04. Present section 4.5 through 4.5 having to do with visitation are deleted.
- present Section 4.6 through 4.6.6 dealing with child support are deleted.
 - 8) Temporary orders are to be presented within 7 days as changed from days after the hearing.
 - 9) Final hearings require 45 days notice pursuant to Rule 245 T.R.C.P. a provisions made for the method for requesting both Jury and Non Jury setting Docket control orders are required when a Jury trial is requested.
 - 10) Times are set for hearing uncontested matters.

Suggested Amendments to the Local Rules that may be required by recent amendments to Rule 245 of the Tex.R.Civ.Proc.

Amendments to the LOCAL RULES OF THE DISTRICT COURTS, THE COUNTY COURTS AT LAW, AND THE PROBATE AND COUNTY COURT OF GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS

The Local Rules for Galveston County Courts adopted December 2, 1988 are amended as follows:

Section 3.2 is hereby amended to read as follows:

The Local Civil Presiding Judge. Each District Judge, except the Family District Judge, shall be the Local Civil Presiding Judge for a three month term, in rotation, commencing with the Judge of the 212th District Court for the period commencing July 1, 1991; the Judge of the 10th District Court for the three month term commencing October 1, 1991; the Judge of the 56th District Court for the three month term commencing January 1, 1992 and Judge of the 122nd District Court for the three month term commencing

Section 3.2.1 is hereby amended to read as follows:

The Local Civil Presiding Judge shall be responsible for assignment of civil cases, both jury and non-jury, for trial, regardless of the court in which the case was originally filed; and, hearing uncontested civil cases, default judgments, settlements, proceedings for restraining orders and/or temporary injunctions, removal of disabilities, change of name, and any other matter of

ancillary nature, unless assigned to another Judge. Pleas, motions or applications to the Court shall be heard by the Local Civil Presiding Judge and shall be filed and notice given as required by Rule 21, Tx R.Civ.Proc. However, the Local Civil Presiding Judge may hear such matters at his option by submission if requested to do so without a formal hearing upon service and notice as set out in such Rule 21. Motions for summary judgment however shall be heard by the Judge of the Court in which the case was originally filed.

There shall be added a Section 3.3.1 which shall read as follows:

The Judges of the following Courts shall be responsible

for summoning and empaneling petit jurors for both civil

and criminal cases, except for special venires, and

assigning jurors to the proper court on a rotating basis

with the Judge of the 10th District Court being

responsible for the three month term commencing July 1,

1991; the Judge of the 56th District Court being

responsible for the three month term commencing October

1, 1991; the Judge of the 122nd District Court being

responsible for the three month term commencing January

1, 1992; and Judge of the 212th District Court being

responsible for the three month term commencing April 1,

1992.

Section 3.4 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Requesting Civil Jury Cases for Trial. The Local Civil

Presiding Judge may set contested cases on written request of any party, or on the court's own motion, with reasonable notice of not less than forty-five days to the parties of a first setting for trial, or by agreement of the parties; provided, however, that when a case previously has been set for trial, the court may reset said contested case to a later date on any reasonable notice to the parties or by agreement of the parties. Noncontested cases may be tried or disposed of at any time whether set of not, and may be set at any time for any other time.

Section 3.4.1 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Any party to a suit on the jury docket which has been on file for at least three (3) months may file a written request for the setting of such case for trial with the Assignment Clerk on or before the 1st day of the 2nd month preceding the month in which trial is requested (i.e. on or before January 1st, 1992 for trial during March, 1992). The request shall be for a week certain (such as, the 2nd week of March, 1992; however this request shall not be binding upon the Presiding Judge who may change the date of any setting so requested. If the request for setting does not provide the required information; if the information is not correct, or if the copy has not been sent in accordance with this rule, then in any such events, the trial request may be stricken on

motion.

Section 3.4.2 is hereby amended to read as follows:

A request for trial setting constitutes a representation that the requesting party reasonably and in good faith expects to be ready for trial by the date requested, but no additional representation concerning the completion of pretrial proceedings or of current readiness for trial shall be required in order to obtain a trial setting in a contested case.

Section 3.4.4 is hereby amended to read as follows:

After the last day for requesting settings, the Assignment Clerk shall compile a list for each of the three jury weeks, which shall be the Civil Jury Calendar for the month to which the request relates, and shall constitute a setting of the case for trial. The Assignment Clerk shall list the cases in numerical order except for any case or cases given a special setting by the Presiding Judge. The Assignment Clerk shall note on the lists which party or parties requested the setting.

Section 3.6 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Trial of Contested Civil Non-Jury Cases: The Local Civil Presiding Judge may, on his own motion, set a civil non-jury case for trial, without the request of any party, by giving notice to all interested parties or their attorneys of record. Any party to a suit on the non-jury docket may file a written request for the setting of such

case for trial with the Assignment Clerk on or before the 1st day of the 2nd month preceding the month in which trial is requested (i.e. on or before January 1st, 1992 for trial during March, 1992). Such request shall be for a week certain during a jury week (although the case is requested for a non-jury trial).

Section 3.6.1 is hereby amended to read as follows:

A request for trial setting of a non-jury case in accordance with Section 3.6 shall constitute a representation that the requesting party reasonably and in good faith expects to be ready for trial by the date requested, but no additional representation concerning the completion of pretrial proceedings or of current readiness for trial shall be required in order to obtain a trial setting in a contested case.

Section 3.6.3 is hereby amended to read as follows:

After the last day for requesting settings, the Assignment Clerk shall compile a list for each of the Jury Trial weeks, which shall be the Civil Non-Jury Calendar, for the month to which a request for non jury trial relates, listing the cases in numerical order except for any case or cases given a special setting by the Presiding Judge which listing shall constitute a setting of the case for trial. The Assignment Clerk shall note on the lists which party or parties requested the setting.

RULE 4. DISPOSITION OF FAMILY LAW AND JUVENILE CASES IS HEREBY AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

Subsection c. and d. of Rule 1.10 are repealed and substituted for by the following Rule 4.1, 4.1.1 and 4.1.2. Rule 4. Disposition of Family Law and Juvenile Cases is repealed and substituted for by the following:

Rule 4.1 General.

All suits authorized under the Family Code shall be filed by Order of the 306th Family District Court. These rules shall be applicable to all family law cases filed in Galveston County.

Rule 4.1.1 Time Standards for Family Law Case Disposition:

a. Family Law Cases.

- (I) Contested Family Law Cases. Within 6 months from the appearance date or within 6 months from the expiration of the waiting period provided by the Family Code where such is required, whichever is later.
- (2) Uncontested Family Law Cases. Within 3 months from the appearance date or within 3 months from the expiration of the waiting period provided by the Family Code where such is required, whichever is later.

b. Juvenile Cases.

In addition to the requirements of Title 3, Texas Family Code:

- (1) Detention Hearings. On the next business day following admission to any detention facility.
- (2) Adjudicatory or Transfer (Waiver) Hearings.

- (a) Concerning a juvenile in detention facility:
 Not later than 10 days following admission to such a facility, except for good cause shown of record.
- (b) Concerning a juvenile not in a detention facility: Not later than 30 days following the filing of the petition, except for good cause shown of record.
- (3) Disposition Hearing. Not later than 15 days following the adjudicatory hearing. The court may grant additional time in exceptional cases that require more complex evaluation.
- (4) Nothing herein shall prevent a judge from recessing a juvenile hearing at any stage of the proceeding where the parties are agreeable or when in the opinion of the judge presiding in the case the best interests of the child and of society shall be served.

c. Complex Cases.

It is recognized that in especially complex cases or special circumstances it may not be possible to adhere to these standards.

Rule 4.1.2 – Juvenile Disposition Provisions:

No provision is made in these rules for the disposition of juvenile cases other than setting out time standards as provided by Rule 4.10 hereof, since juvenile cases are heard by the 306th Family District Court, the County Courts at Law No. One and Two, and the Probate and County Court of Galveston County. Rules for the disposition of juvenile cases will be adopted by the aforementioned courts which handled such cases.

Rule 4.2 - Financial Information Statements:

In all domestic relations cases related to divorce or modification of support, the following shall be included in all orders granted ex parte setting a hearing on temporary orders involving any support or alimony or setting a hearing on support modification:

All parties to this action shall file with the Clerk and deliver a copy to the judge and all counsel or pro se parties a Statement of Income and Expense, pay receipts for one month and/or statement of income from employer.

Rule 4.2.1

The Clerk shall attach a copy of the Statement of Income and Expense form to each Notice of Temporary Hearing or Citation on Modification which is served on a party and shall furnish a copy of same to each counsel or pro se party not served with the Order. All parties are required to file a Statement of Income and Expense as set out in these rules.

Rule 4.2.2

Statement of Income and Expense shall be verified, under oath, by the party making same and certified to by counsel for such party. Counsel and parties are encouraged to prepare such statements of Income and Expense in such manner that they can be presented as evidence in lieu of direct testimony. Counsel and parties are encouraged to offer the same as evidence in such proceeding.

Rule 4.2.3

Compliance with this rule may be by the completion of a Statement of Income and Expense in the form attached hereto. Counsel are responsible for accuracy and timeliness.

Rule 4.3 - Inventory and Appraisement:

Within seventy-five days of filing of each divorce or annulment case, each party shall file with the Clerk, a copy being furnished to the Judge, opposing counsel and pro se parties, a sworn inventory and appraisement of all property (both separate and community) of the parties, including any property belonging to children of the parties. In the event of a substantial disparity in property evaluation filed by parties to a proceeding, within ten days after the filing of the original inventories and appraisements, the parties shall file a sworn statement setting forth the reason for the evaluations assigned by each such party. In the event a dispute as to character of property, each party's contention shall be supported by affidavit and documents, if any, filed at least ten days prior to trial.

Rule 4.3.1

In the event of the filing of a written agreement completely settling the property of the parties to such action and all custody and support matters, it shall not be necessary to file such inventories and appraisements.

Rule 4.3.2

The failure to timely file such inventories and appraisements, affidavits or statements set out in these rules may result, in addition to sanctions provided by law, in the continuance of temporary alimony and/or support or the discontinuation of same, or dismissal of the case for want of prosecution.

Rule 4.4 - Ex Parte Restraining Orders:

Except as otherwise provided by law, ex parte restraining orders shall be granted only when presented by attorney accompanied by client (306th District Court only).

Rule 4.4.1

No ex parte restraining order shall evict a party from the home unless filed in conjunction with Chapter 71, T.F.C.

Rule 4.4.2

No ex parte order shall restrain a parent from having access to that person's child(ren) except upon affirmation showing that the interest of the children require such restraint.

Rule 4.5 - Possession of and Access to a Child:

Possession of and access to a child, including temporary orders, shall be pursuant to T.F.C. Section 14.03–14.04.

Rule 4.6 – Child Support:

The setting of child support, including temporary child support, shall be pursuant to T.F.C. Section 14.05–14.08, and 14.061.

Rule 4.7 - Temporary Orders:

All temporary orders shall be presented to the Court within seven (7) days of the hearing or the case shall be subject to dismissal. Such orders need not be submitted to other counsel for approval, but a copy of the order delivered to the Court shall be forwarded to opposing counsel in a timely fashion.

Rule 4.8 Final Hearings:

Rule 4.8.1

Notice of all first settings shall be pursuant to Rule 245 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure. (i.e. 45 days notice)

Rule 4.8.2 – Jury Trials: (306th)

Due to the crowded non-jury docket, jury trials shall be set as follows: Upon proper request and payment of a jury fee pursuant to Rule 216 T.R.C.P., cases shall be set for jury trial on the first available calendar opening corresponding to a scheduled jury week. Cases shall be called in the order in which they are requested. If not reached, the case shall be reset by the court for the next calendar opening corresponding to a scheduled jury week.

Rule 4.8.3 – Docket Control Orders:

Upon the payment of the jury fee and submission of a jury request, the parties shall complete a docket control order substantially in conformity with the form attached hereto and file with the court within thirty (30) days. After approval by the court, the parties shall be bound by terms of the docket control order. Failure to complete the docket control order within thirty (30) days of receipt thereof will be cause for the trial to be stricken from the calendar and may be cause for placement on the dismissal docket.

Rule 4.8.4 – Non–Jury Trials:

Requests for settings for final hearings in all contested family law cases shall be in writing and directed to the Judge's office with copies to opposing counsel and the Clerk of the Court. In all cases where there is community property, a sworn inventory and appraisement must be filed with the District Clerk's office before the case will be set for trial. If a party fails to file an inventory, the one filing will be taken as uncontested. Such request shall, in addition to the requirements set forth in these rules, certify that all parties have fully complied with Rule 4.3 (inventories) and shall contain a general statement of the contested issues (i.e. property, conservatorship, support) as well as an estimate of the time required to hear the entire matter.

Rule 4.8.5 - Uncontested Matters:

Counsel shall be responsible for securing the file from the Clerk and seeing that it is placed on the bench at the time uncontested matters are heard: County court No. 2, 8:00 a.m.; 306th District court, 8:30 a.m. Cases not timely secured from the clerk and placed on the bench may be passed or heard later in the day, at the Court's discretion.

Rule 4.9 - Continuances:

No continuances shall be granted, in any case, except upon good cause shown, in writing, signed by the attorney and the client and approved by the Court, and in accordance with T.R.C.P. Rule.

Rule 4.10 - Dead Week:

The week of the Advanced Family Law Course (usually in August) shall be a dead week for family law.

Adopted on the 27th day of November, 1992 to become effective upon approval by the Supreme Court of Texas and after publication by posting for at least thirty days on the bulletin board in the office of the District Clerk of Galveston County,

regas in accordance with Rule 3(a) Tex.R.Civ.Proc.

Ed J. Harris, Judge 10th Judicial District

I. A. Lerner, Judge 56th Judicial District

Henry G. Dalehite, Judge 122nd Judicial District

Roy Engelke Judge > 212th Judicial District

Susan Baker Olsen, Judge 306th Judicial District Family District Court

John M. Thoma, Judge County Court at Law No. 1

Ronald L. Milson, Judge County Court at Law No. 2

Jerbme Jones, Judge Probate and County Court

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

CAUSE NO		DATE	
HOUSING:	2. 3. 4.	MONTHLY EXPENSES Rent/House Payment\$ Insurance (Homeowner or Tenant) Maintenance, repair and service Utilities (Gas, water, electric)	
AUTO AND TRANSPOR- TATION:	3. 4.	Car payments	
INSURANCE:	Z •	Life Health or hospitalization	
FOOD:	1.	Groceries School and work lunches	
MEDICAL: (Unin- sured)	1. 2.	Doctors Dentists Drugs	
EDUCATION:	1.	School Supplies, fees, and other costs.	
PERSONAL:	1. 2. 3.	Grooming (Barber, Hairdresser) Clothing	
ENTERTAINM		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
DUES:	1.	Union, Professional, etc	·
LWINDHID.	4.		
CHILD CARE:	:		
TOT	'AI.	EXPENSES	\

WEEKLY/MONTHLY INCOME

GROSS\$		
W/H, FICA (Income Tax and Social Security Withheld)		
NET OR DISPOSABLE INCOME (GROSS LESS ABOVE WITHHOLDING)\$		
INSURANCE		
RETIREMENT		
OTHER (Specify)		
NET PAY		
OTHER PAY		
SIGNATURE OF PARTY		
SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY FOR PARTY		
SWORN to and subscribed before me by the above named party the		
date set out above.		
Notary Public/District Clerk/Deputy		

	NO.
*** · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	* In the Family District Court
and	* of Galveston County, Texas
	* 306th Judicial District
	DOCKET CONTROL ORDER
1	New parties shall be joined and served by this date. The party causing such joinder will provide copies of this order to the new parties.
2	Experts for Petitioner shall be designated by this date. Experts for all other parties shall be designated 30 days after this date. No additional experts will be permitted to testify, except for good cause shown.
3	DISCOVERY shall be completed by this date. Counsel may, by agreement, continue discovery beyond this deadline, such continued discovery, however, will not delay the trial date.
4	_AMENDMENTS to pleadings shall be filed by this date.
5. '	_Counsel for all parties must submit jury questions, definitions and instructions with a copy mailed to the Court.
6	PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE will be held. Trial counsel are ordered to attend and to be prepared to discuss all aspects of the suit and trial. Proposed division of property to be filed and exchanged this date. (In property cases).
7	_TRIAL IS SET FOR THIS DATE. If the case is not reached for trial, the trial date will be reset.
SIGN	MED this the day of, 199
	Judge Presiding
Attorney	for Pet. Attorney for Respondent