

STATE OF TEXAS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**CASE MANAGEMENT/CASE ASSIGNMENT PLAN
FOR THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY DISTRICT COURTS**

Pursuant to Section 24.024 of the Texas Government Code, and the applicable provisions of the Williamson County Local Rules, the District Courts of Williamson County issue the following Administrative Order creating the Case Management/Case Assignment Plan ("Plan") for the District Courts of Williamson County.

The 480th District Court was created by the 87th Legislature, effective October 1, 2022.¹ By unanimous vote, the District Judges of Williamson County have determined that the 480th District Court will receive a distribution of civil cases, including family and child welfare cases. This Plan shall be effective on the day the presiding judge of the 480th District Court takes office.

I. REASSIGNMENT OF PENDING CASES. In the interest of judicial economy, the effective and efficient resolution of cases, and according to the provisions of Section 24.003 (b)(1) of the Texas Government Code, the District Courts have determined that:

A. FAMILY CASES

Each court hearing family cases, including but not limited to adoptions, protective orders and cases brought by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, shall retain its pending cases.

B. CIVIL NON-FAMILY CASES

Each court hearing civil cases may transfer a portion of its pending cases to the 480th District Court² according to the following process:

FILED
at 1:06 o'clock P M
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¹ See: Tex. Gov't Code 24.60025

² With the consent of the Judge of the 480th District Court (see: Tex. Gov't Code 24.003(b-1)).

Lisa David
District Clerk, Williamson Co., TX.

- On August 1, 2022, a number shall be identified that represents 20% of the total number of pending civil cases, including tax cases.
- On or before September 1, 2022, the 26th, 368th, 395th and 425th District Courts shall provide the District Clerk with a list of pending civil cases to be transferred to the 480th District Court. The number of cases transferred to the 480th District Court shall be no more than 20% of each court's total pending civil cases, including tax cases.
- The District Clerk shall transfer those cases effective October 1, 2022, or such other date as may be determined by the District Judges.
- The Director of District Court Administration shall coordinate with the District Clerk and Williamson County Information Technology Services to ensure attorneys receive notice of all transfers.

C. CRIMINAL CASES

Each court hearing criminal cases shall retain its pending cases.

II. ASSIGNMENT OF NEW FAMILY CASES. In the interest of judicial economy, the effective and efficient resolution of cases, and according to the provisions of Section 24.024 of the Texas Government Code, the District Courts have determined that:

A. FAMILY CASES

On the day the presiding judge of the 480th District Court takes office, new family case filings, including but not limited to adoptions and protective orders, assigned to the District Courts shall be filed as follows: 20% in the 395th District Court; 20% in the 425th District Court; and 60% in the 480th District Court. Understanding that modification cases shall remain with the court of continuing jurisdiction, this case distribution process is intended to build up the 480th District Court's docket to an equal level with the 395th and 425th District Courts. The plan shall remain in effect until the 395th, 425th, and 480th District Courts' pending family cases, including modifications, are equally distributed. Upon reaching this metric, *effective immediately and without entry of further orders*, the new family cases assigned to the District Courts shall be filed

as follows: 33.3% in the 395th District Court; 33.3% in the 425th District Court; and 33.3% in the 480th District Court.

B. TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES CASES

On the day the presiding judge of the 480th District Court takes office, the child welfare cases assigned to the District Courts, filed under Chapter 261, 262 & 263 of the Texas Family Code and involving the Department of Family and Protective Services, shall be filed as follows: 33.3% in the 395th District Court; 33.3% in the 425th District Court; and 33.3% in the 480th District Court.

III. ASSIGNMENT OF NEW CIVIL CASES. In the interest of judicial economy, the effective and efficient resolution of cases, and according to the provisions of Section 24.024 of the Texas Government Code, the District Courts have determined that:

On the day the presiding judge of the 480th District Court takes office, new civil case filings assigned to the District Courts shall be filed on a blind, random basis by the District Clerk as follows: 12.5% in the 26th District Court; 25% in the 395th District Court; 12.5% in the 368th District Court; 25% in the 425th District Court; and 25% in the 480th District Court. Tax cases will be filed in the District Courts on a strict rotation and pursuant to the same ratio.

IV. ASSIGNMENT OF NEW CRIMINAL CASES. In the interest of judicial economy, the effective and efficient resolution of cases, and according to the provisions of Section 24.024 of the Texas Government Code, the District Courts have determined that:

On the day the presiding judge of the 480th District Court takes office, new criminal case filings assigned to the District Courts shall be filed as follows: 33.3% in the 26th District Court; 33.3% in the 277th District Court; and 33.3% in the 368th District Court.

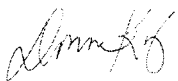
- **Multiple Prosecutions.** Multiple prosecutions arising from the same facts or against the same defendant will be filed in the same District Court. If cases must be transferred to accomplish this, all cases will go to the District Court with the lowest cause number, unless the affected District Judges agree otherwise.

- **Pending Cases.** If a newly charged defendant has a pending case in another District Court or is on probation in another District Court, then the new criminal case will be transferred to that District Court.
- **Reindictment of a Pending Case.** If a new indictment is a re-indictment of a pending case, then the case will be transferred to the District Court where the original indictment is pending.
- **Capital Cases.** Cases will be filed in strict rotation between the 26th, 277th, and 368th District Courts. A case charged and/or indicted as a capital case will count as a “Capital Case” even though subsequently reduced to a lesser offense.

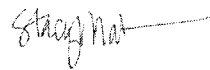
V. ADJUSTMENT OF PLAN EFFECTIVE DATE(S)

The operational date of the 480th District Court depends on several factors, including the appointment of the District Judge.³ Accordingly, it may become necessary to modify some or all of the effective dates contained in this Plan.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 1st DAY OF JULY, 2022



Donna King
Judge, 26th District Court



Stacey Mathews
Judge, 277th District Court



Rick Kennon
Judge, 368th District Court



Ryan Larson
Judge, 395th District Court



Betsy Lambeth
Judge, 425th District Court
Local Administrative District Judge

³ See: Tex. Gov't Code 24.026.