

FILED

2023 MAR -1 PM 3:15

Carla M. Shaw
SHERIFF
MCLENNAN COUNTY, TEXAS

CAUSE NO. _____

IN THE INTEREST OF

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

MCLENNAN COUNTY, TEXAS,

CHILD(REN)

474TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

STANDING ORDER FOR CERTAIN HEARINGS TO BE VIRTUAL

The court makes this order on its own initiative. Because the Texas Supreme Court's final general emergency order expired on March 1, 2023, and subject to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 21d which governs virtual hearings, this Court makes the following Standing Court Order.

STATUS AND PERMANENCY HEARINGS TO BE VIRTUAL

Recognizing the privilege and convenience of virtual proceedings for parties and other participants, and further considering the factors enumerated in Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 21d(e), the Court, HEREBY GIVES NOTICE, that all Status hearings and all Permanency hearings set in the Centex Child Protection Court North will be held virtually on the Zoom platform, absent request otherwise from a party or attorney of record.

IN PERSON HEARINGS FOR ADVERSARIES, CONTESTED FINAL HEARINGS AND THE INITIAL HEARING ON COURT ORDERED SERVICES

Initial adversary hearings, contested final hearings, and the initial hearing on all court ordered services cases will be held in person, absent the agreement of the parties. There will be no hybrid hearings unless and until the Court's available technology permits.

As prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and emergency orders, a party or witness may appear by telephone or other electronic means only with the prior agreement of the parties or with the permission of the Court in limited circumstances due to unique hardship.

HEARINGS IN PERSON UPON REQUEST

Any hearing which is scheduled to be held virtually will be taken off the virtual docket date and scheduled for an in person hearing at the request of a party or attorney of record.

DE NOVO HEARINGS

All de novo hearings before the referring court will be set for a virtual hearing absent an express request for an in-person hearing in the request for de novo hearing. The hearing will be changed from virtual to an in-person hearing upon written request from any other party or attorney of record filed within three working days after the filing of the request for de novo hearing.

DURATION OF ORDER

The terms of this Order remain in effect for as long as the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services remains a party in the case or until further order of the Court.

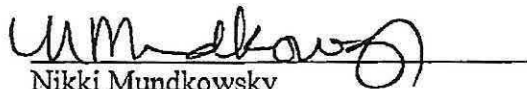
IT IS SO ORDERED.



Alan Bennett
474th Judicial District Court Judge
McLennan County Texas

3/1/2023

Date



Nikki Mundkowsky
Associate Judge, 474th Judicial District
McLennan County Texas

March 1, 2023

Date