

# DALLAS COUNTY FAMILY DISTRICT COURTS GENERAL ORDERS

(Revised January 11, 2021)

## DALLAS COUNTY STANDING ORDER REGARDING: CHILDREN, PETS, PROPERTY AND CONDUCT OF THE PARTIES

No party to this lawsuit has requested this order. Rather, this order is a standing order of the Dallas County District Courts that applies in every divorce suit and every suit affecting the parent-child relationship filed in Dallas County. The District Courts of Dallas County giving preference to family law matters have adopted this order because the parties, their children and the family pets should be protected and their property preserved while the lawsuit is pending before the court.

Therefore, it is **ORDERED**:

1. **NO DISRUPTION OF CHILDREN.** All parties are ORDERED to refrain from doing the following acts concerning any children who are subjects of this case:
  - 1.1 Removing the children from the State of Texas for the purpose of changing residence, acting directly or in concert with others, without the written agreement of both parties or an order of this Court.
  - 1.2 Disrupting or withdrawing the children from the school or day-care facility where the children are presently enrolled, without the written agreement of both parents or an order of this Court.
  - 1.3 Hiding or secreting the children from the other parent or changing the children's current place of abode, without the written agreement of both parents or an order of this Court.
  - 1.4 Disturbing the peace of the children.
  - 1.5 Making disparaging remarks regarding the other party in the presence or within the hearing of the children.
  - 1.6 Discussing with a child, or with any other person in the presence of a child, any litigation related to a child or the other party.
2. **PROTECTION OF FAMILY PETS OR COMPANION ANIMALS.** All parties are ORDERED to refrain from harming, threatening, interfering with the care, custody, or control of a pet or companion animal, possessed by a person protected by this order or by a member of the family or household of a person protected by this order.
3. **CONDUCT OF THE PARTIES DURING THE CASE.** All parties are ORDERED to refrain from doing the following acts:
  - 3.1 Using vulgar, profane, obscene, or indecent language, or a coarse or offensive manner to communicate with the other party, whether in person or in any other manner, including by telephone or another electronic voice transmission, video chat, social media, or in writing, or electronic messaging, with intent to annoy or alarm the other party.
  - 3.2 Threatening the other party in person or in any other manner, including, by telephone or another electronic voice transmission, video chat, social media, or in writing, or electronic messaging, to take unlawful action against any person, intending by this action to annoy or alarm the other party.

3.3 Placing one or more telephone calls or text messages, at an unreasonable hour, in an offensive or repetitious manner, without a legitimate purpose of communication, or anonymously with the intent to alarm or annoy the other party.

3.4 Illegally intercepting or recording the other party's electronic communications.

3.5 Intentionally, knowing or recklessly causing bodily injury to the other party or to a child of either party.

3.6 Threatening the other party or a child of either party with imminent bodily injury.

4. **PRESERVATION OF PROPERTY AND USE OF FUNDS DURING DIVORCE CASE.** If this is a divorce case, both parties to the marriage are ORDERED to refrain from intentionally and knowingly doing the following acts:

4.1 Destroying, removing, concealing, encumbering, transferring, or otherwise harming or reducing the value of the property of one or both of the parties.

4.2 Falsifying a writing or record including an electronic record, relating to the property of either party.

4.3 Misrepresenting or refusing to disclose to the other party or to the Court, on proper request, the existence, amount, or location of any tangible or intellectual property of one or both of the parties, including electronically stored or recorded information.

4.4 Damaging or destroying the tangible or intellectual property of one or both of the parties, including any document that represents or embodies anything of value, and causing pecuniary loss to the other party, including electronically stored or recorded information.

4.5 Tampering with the tangible or intellectual property of one or both of the parties, including any document, electronically stored or recorded information, that represents or embodies anything of value, and causing pecuniary loss to the other party.

4.6 Selling, transferring, assigning, mortgaging, encumbering, or in any other manner alienating any of the property of either party, whether personal property or real property or intellectual property, and whether separate or community, except as specifically authorized by this order.

4.7 Incurring any indebtedness, other than legal expenses in connection with this suit, except as specifically authorized by this order.

4.8 Making withdrawals from any checking or savings account in any financial institution for any purpose, except as specifically authorized by this order.

4.9 Spending any sum of cash in either party's possession or subject to either party's control for any purpose, except as specifically authorized by this order.

4.10 Withdrawing or borrowing in any manner for any purpose from any retirement, profit-sharing, pension, death, or other employee benefit plan or employee savings plan or from any individual retirement account or Keogh account, except as specifically authorized by this order.

4.11 Signing or endorsing the other party's name on any negotiable instrument, check, or draft, such as tax refunds, insurance payments, and dividends, or attempting to negotiate any negotiable instrument payable to the other party without the personal signature of the other party.

4.12 Destroying, disposing of, or altering, any financial records of the parties, including canceled checks, deposit slips, and other records from a financial institution, a record of credit purchases or cash advances, a tax return, and a financial statement.

4.13 Destroying, disposing of, or altering any email, text message, video message, or chat message or social media message or other electronic data or electronically stored information relevant to the subject matter of the suit for dissolution of marriage, regardless of whether the information is stored on a hard drive in a removable storage device, in cloud storage, or in another electronic storage medium.

4.14 Modifying, changing, or altering the native format or metadata of any electronic data or electronically stored information relevant to the subject matter of the suit for dissolution of marriage, regardless of whether the information is stored on a hard drive in a removable storage device, in cloud storage, or in another electronic storage medium.

4.15 Deleting any data or content from any social network profile used or created by either party or a child of the parties.

4.16 Using any password or personal identification number to gain access to the other party's email account, bank account, social media account, or any other electronic account.

4.17 Taking any action to terminate or limit credit or charge cards in the name of the other party.

4.18 Entering, operating, or exercising control over the motor vehicle in the possession of the other party.

4.19 Discontinuing or reducing the withholding for federal income taxes on wages or salary.

4.20 Terminating or in any manner affecting the service of water, electricity, gas, telephone, cable television, or other contractual services, such as security, pest control, landscaping, or yard maintenance at the other party's residence or in any manner attempting to withdraw any deposits for service in connection with such services.

4.21 Excluding the other party from the use and enjoyment of the other party's specifically identified residence.

4.22 Opening or redirecting mail, email or any other electronic communication addressed to the other party.

5. **PERSONAL AND BUSINESS RECORDS IN DIVORCE CASE.** "Records" means any tangible document or recording and includes e-mail or other digital or electronic data, whether stored on a computer hard drive, diskette or other electronic storage device. If this is a divorce case, both parties to the marriage are ORDERED to refrain from doing the following acts:

5.1 Concealing or destroying any family records, property records, financial records, business records or any records of income, debts, or other obligations; and

5.2 Falsifying any writing or record relating to the property of either party.

6. **INSURANCE IN DIVORCE CASE.** If this is a divorce case, both parties to the marriage are ORDERED to refrain from doing the following acts:

6.1 Withdrawing or borrowing in any manner all or any part of the cash surrender value of life insurance policies on the life of either party, except as specifically authorized by this order.

6.2 Changing or in any manner altering the beneficiary designation on any life insurance on the life of either party or the parties' children.

6.3 Canceling, altering, or in any manner affecting any casualty, automobile, or health insurance policies insuring the parties' property or persons including the parties' minor children.

7. **SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATIONS IN DIVORCE CASE.** If this is a divorce case, both parties to the marriage are specifically authorized to do the following:

7.1 To engage in acts reasonable and necessary to the conduct of that party's usual business and occupation;

7.2 To make expenditures and incur indebtedness for reasonable attorney's fees and expenses in connection with this suit;

7.3 To make expenditures and incur indebtedness for reasonable and necessary living expenses for food, clothing, shelter, transportation and medical care;

7.4 To make withdrawals from accounts in financial institutions only for the purposes authorized by this order.

8. **SERVICE AND APPLICATION OF THIS ORDER.** The Petitioner shall attach a copy of this order to the original petition and to each copy of the petition.

8.1 At the time the petition is filed, if the Petitioner has failed to attach a copy of this order to the petition and any copy of the petition, the Clerk shall ensure that a copy of this order is attached to the petition and every copy of the petition presented.

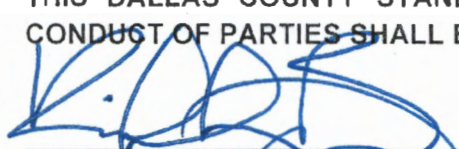
8.2 This order is effective upon the filing of the original petition and shall remain in full force and effect as a temporary restraining order for fourteen days after the date of the filing of the original petition. If no party contests this order by presenting evidence at a hearing on or before fourteen days after the date of the filing of the original petition, this order shall continue in full force and effect as a temporary injunction until further order of the court. This entire order will terminate and will no longer be effective once the court signs a final order.

9. **EFFECT OF OTHER COURT ORDERS.** If any part of this order is different from any part of a protective order that has already been entered or is later entered, the protective order provisions prevail. Any part of this order not changed by some later order remains in full force and effect until the court signs a final decree.

10. **PARTIES ENCOURAGED TO MEDIATE.** The parties are encouraged to settle their disputes amicably without court intervention. The parties are encouraged to use alternative dispute resolution methods, such as mediation or informal settlement conferences (if appropriate), to resolve the conflicts that may arise in this lawsuit.

11. **BOND WAIVED.** It is ORDERED that the requirement of a bond is waived.

THIS DALLAS COUNTY STANDING ORDER REGARDING CHILDREN, PROPERTY AND CONDUCT OF PARTIES SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE ON JANUARY 11, 2021.



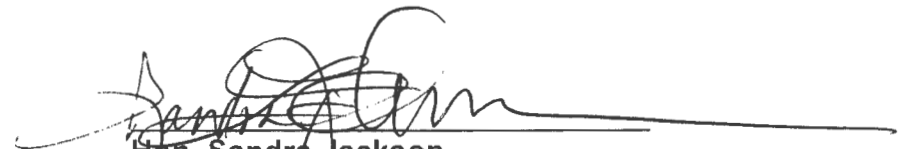
Hon. Kim Brown  
Judge, 254<sup>th</sup> District Court



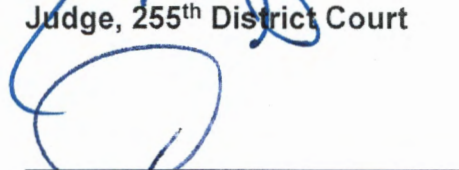
Hon. Mary Brown  
Judge, 301<sup>st</sup> District Court




Hon. Kim Cooks  
Judge, 255<sup>th</sup> District Court



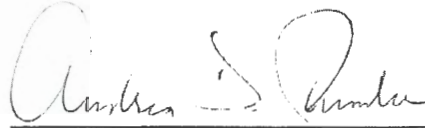
Hon. Sandra Jackson  
Judge, 302<sup>nd</sup> District Court



Hon. David Lopez  
Judge, 256<sup>th</sup> District Court



Hon. Andrea D. Plumlee, Presiding Judge  
on behalf of the 303<sup>rd</sup> District Court



Hon. Andrea D. Plumlee  
Judge, 330<sup>th</sup> District Court