## IN THE 452<sup>ND</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF EDWARDS, KIMBLE, MASON, MCCULLOCH AND MENARD COUNTIES, TEXAS

## STANDING ORDER REGARDING PUBLIC ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC PROCEEDINGS

WHEREAS the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure authorize Texas courts to allow or require anyone—including but not limited to the court, a party, attorney, witness, or court reporter, but not including a juror—involved in a court proceeding governed by those Rules to participate electronically or remotely, such as by teleconference, videoconference, or other electronic means, except where otherwise prohibited by law;

WHEREAS a court may permit participants to appear electronically in criminal court proceedings as provided by law;

WHEREAS unless a court has determined that it must close a court proceeding as provided by law, Texas courts must provide the public the opportunity to observe court proceedings, and must provide reasonable notice to the public of how to observe these proceedings; and

WHEREAS the 452<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Court is committed to ensuring transparency of the justice system;

THEREFORE, the following is a STANDING ORDER of this Court:

## IT IS ORDERED AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT:

- 1. Electronic court proceedings may be conducted using the Zoom platform.
- 2. Except at the discretion of the Court, only participants in a proceeding will be admitted to the virtual courtroom.
- 3. The public may view electronic court proceedings on the Court's YouTube Live-Streaming Channel found at: https://www.youtube.com/@txdistcourt4522

4. Unless authorized by the court, recording, capture, or download of electronic proceedings is prohibited and such may subject the violator to a finding of contempt and a sentence of up to \$500.00 and 180 days in jail.

5. In its discretion, the Court may record video and audio of court proceedings. Such recordings are not public information and do not form a part of the official record or transcript of the case. Official transcripts of court proceedings may be obtained by contacting the official court reporter at <a href="mailto:tina.young@txcourts.gov">tina.young@txcourts.gov</a>

6. This Standing Order is effective immediately and remains in effect until rescinded or replaced and is subject to modification or amendment.

7. This Standing Order shall be filed in the administrative orders of the Court of each county and posted as a Public Notice at the County Courthouse.

Signed the 8th day of February, 2023.

Rob Hofmann

Judge, 452<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District