

TO ALL ATTORNEYS WHO PRACTICE IN THE ECTOR COUNTY COURTS AT LAW:

There has recently been an extreme increase in bland, generic continuances being filed with our courts. Most of these are form continuances which are filed with complete disregard to how many have been filed in a particular case, and referencing the same "copy and paste" reasons needed for the continuance as the case's previous continuances, or, in some cases, no real reason given at all. Furthermore, many of these are not being filed until the day of the hearing to which they apply, with some even being submitted AFTER the hearing has already passed.

Thus, in an effort to make all attorneys aware of exactly how many continuances they have filed in their cases, to make them more cognizant of submitting timely filings, and to encourage thoughtful articulation of valid reasons for the motion, the Ector County Courts at Law are making the following changes with respect to the filing of these continuances:

1.) The Courts will now require that all motions for continuance MUST include, in the Motion heading, the number with regard to which continuance is being filed in each respective case, regardless of whether the continuance is agreed to or not. (ex.: "Defendant's Third Motion For Continuance"; "State's Fourth Agreed Motion for Continuance", "Defendant's First Motion for Continuance", etc.). We are instructing the County Clerk's office to reject the filing of any continuances in the Courts at Law that are not numbered in this manner.

2.) All continuances must state a clear, concise explanation of the need for each continuance. Failure to do so will result in an automatic denial of the motion.

3.) All Continuances (except in cases of a VERIFIABLE emergency) must be filed with the Courts (via the Ector County E-file system) PRIOR to the docket call for which that motion is applicable. Any continuances filed in violation of this rule will be denied, and the case will be treated as a "non-appearance" at the hearing.

Thank you.

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