

IN COUNTY COURT
SHACKELFORD COUNTY, TEXAS

STANDING ORDER REGARDING *PRO SE* PROBATE & GUARDIANSHIP MATTERS

WHEREAS, from time to time individuals attempt to handle family probate and guardianship matters without the benefit of counsel.

WHEREAS, the County Court of Shackelford County, Texas, believes that a person should have the right to represent themselves if they so choose.

WHEREAS, an estate, probate, or guardianship matter is a complex and complicated matter requiring more than an ordinary knowledge of just filling in a blank form.

WHEREAS, the purpose of a probate is not only to pass title to the heirs or devisees of a decedent but to assure the payment of valid claims against the estate.

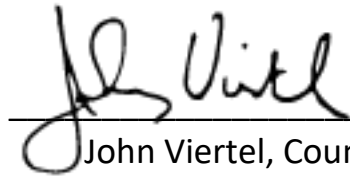
WHEREAS, the purpose of a guardianship is to protect the interest, property and well-being of a person of limited abilities on an ongoing basis.

WHEREAS, Texas state law allows **a person to only represent themselves.**

WHEREAS, the County Court of Shackelford County, Texas, is gravely concerned that a ***PRO SE*** applicant in a probate or guardianship matter places the Court in an untenable position of not only conforming to the law, but being requested to offer legal advice.

THEREFORE, from this date forward, it is a standing order of this Court that it will not hear *PRO SE* probated matters unless there is a will and the applicant is the sole heir under that will and will not hear *PRO SE* guardianship matters under any circumstances.

Signed and sealed the 7th day of July, 2025.



John Viertel, County Judge
Shackelford County Texas