

**HUNT COUNTY STANDING ORDER REGARDING CHILDREN, PROPERTY
AND CONDUCT OF THE PARTIES**

No party to this lawsuit has requested this order. Rather, this order is a standing order of the Hunt County District Courts that applies in every divorce suit and every suit affecting the parent-child relationship filed in Hunt County, except cases initiated by the Attorney General of Texas or the Department of Family Protective and Regulatory Services. The District Courts of Hunt County have adopted this order because the parties and their children should be protected and their property preserved while the lawsuit is pending before the court. Therefore it is ORDERED:

1. NO DISRUPTION OF CHILDREN. Both 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, 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 parties 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. If an order is in place "current place of abode" means the primary residence of the child as reflected in the order. Further, this standing order does not affect access and possession unless extraordinary relief is requested.
 - 1.4 Disturbing the peace of the children.
 - 1.5 Making disparaging remarks about each other or the other person's family members, to include but not be limited to the child's grandparents, aunts, uncles, or stepparents.
 - 1.6 Discussing with the children, or with any other person in the presence of the children, any litigation related to the children or the other party.
 - 1.7 If this is an original divorce action, allowing anyone with whom the party is romantically involved, to remain overnight in the home while in possession of the child, unless that person is a resident of the party's household at the time of the filing of the divorce. Overnight is defined from 10:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m.
 - 1.8 Using or possessing any dangerous drug or controlled substance not prescribed by a physician during any period of possession of a child, or within the 12 hours preceding any period of possession.

2. CONDUCT OF THE PARTIES DURING THE CASE. Both parties are ORDERED to refrain from doing the following acts:
 - 2.1 Using vulgar, profane, obscene, or indecent language, or a course or offensive manner to communicate with the other party, whether in person, by telephone, or in writing.
 - 2.2 Threatening the other party in person, by telephone, or in writing to take unlawful action against any person.
 - 2.3 Placing one or more telephone calls, at any unreasonable hour, in an offensive or repetitious manner without a legitimate purpose of communication, or anonymously.
 - 2.4 Intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causing bodily injury to the other party or the child of either party.
 - 2.5 Opening or diverting mail addressed to the other party.

3. 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 doing the following acts:
 - 3.1 Destroying, removing, concealing, encumbering, transferring, or otherwise harming or reducing the value of the property of one or both parties.
 - 3.2 Misrepresenting or refusing to disclose to the other party or to the Court, proper request, the existence, amount, or location of any tangible or intellectual property of the parties or either party, including electronically stored or recorded information.
 - 3.3 Damaging or destroying the tangible property of one or both of the parties, including any document that represents or embodies anything of value.
 - 3.4 Tampering with the tangible property of one or both of the parties, including any documents that represents or embodies anything of value, and causing pecuniary loss to the other party.
 - 3.5 Selling, transferring, assigning, mortgaging, encumbering, or in any other manner alienating any of the property of either party, whether personal property or real estate property, and whether separate or community, except as specifically authorized by this order.
 - 3.6 Incurring any indebtedness, other than legal expense in connection with this suit, except as specifically authorized by this order.

- 3.7 Making withdrawals from any checking or savings account in any financial institution for any purpose, except as specifically authorized by this order.
- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 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.
- 3.10 Modifying, changing or in any way altering the username and/or password to any financial, social media, data storage, media storage, communications, or other account;
- 3.11 Signing or endorsing the other party's name or 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.
- 3.12 Taking any action to terminate or limit credit or charge cards in the name of the other party.
- 3.13 Entering, operating, or exercising control over the motor vehicle in the possession of the other party.
- 3.14 Discontinuing or altering the withholding for federal income taxes on wages or salary while this suit is pending.
- 3.15 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.
- 3.16 Intercepting or recording the other party's electronic communications.
- 3.17 Entering any safe deposit box in the name of or subject to the control of the parties or either party, whether individually or jointly with others.
- 3.18 For the purposes of this Order, "personal property" and "tangible property" includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. cash, checks, traveler's checks and money orders;
 - b. funds on deposit in financial accounts with commercial banks, savings banks, and credit unions;

- c. funds and assets held in brokerage, mutual fund and other investment accounts;
- d. publicly traded stocks, bonds and other securities;
- e. stock options and restricted stock units;
- f. bonuses;
- g. closely held business interests;
- h. retirement benefits and accounts;
- i. deferred compensation benefits;
- j. insurance policies, annuities, and health savings accounts;
- k. motor vehicles, boats, airplanes, cycles, mobile homes, trailers, and recreational vehicles;
- l. money owed to one or both parties, including notes and expected income tax refunds;
- m. household furniture, furnishings and fixtures;
- n. electronics and computers;
- o. antiques, artworks, and collections;
- p. sporting goods and firearms;
- q. jewelry and other personal items;
- r. pets and livestock;
- s. club memberships;
- t. travel award benefits and other award accounts;
- u. crops, farm equipment, construction equipment, tools, leases, crematory lots, gold or silver coins not part of a collection, tax overpayments, loss carry-forward deductions, lottery

tickets/winnings, stadium bonds, stadium seat licenses, seat options, season tickets, ranch brands, and business names;

v. digital assets such as e-mail addresses, social networking accounts, web sites, domain names, digital media such as pictures, music, e-books, movies and videos, blogs, reward points, digital storefronts, artwork, and data storage accounts;

w. safe deposit boxes and their contents;

x. storage facilities and their contents; and

y. contingent assets.

4. PERSONAL AND BUSINESS RECORDS IN DIVORCE CASE. If this is a divorce case, both parties to the marriage are ORDERED to refrain from doing the following acts:

- 4.1 Concealing or destroying any family records, property records financial records business records or any records of income, debt or other obligations.
- 4.2 Falsifying any writing or record relating to the property of either party.
- 4.3 Destroying, disposing of, or altering any e-mail, text message, video message, or chat 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.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 Deleting any data or content from any social network profile used or created by either party or a child of the parties.
- 4.6 Using any password or personal identification number to gain access to the other party's e-mail account, bank account, social media account, or any other electronic account.
- 4.7 Excluding the other party from the use and enjoyment of a specifically identified residence of the other party.

4.8 "Records" include e-mail or other digital or electronic data, whether stored on a computer hard drive, diskette or other electronic storage device.

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

5.1 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.5 Nothing in this order:

(a) Excludes a spouse from occupancy of the residence where that spouse is living except as provided in a protective order made in accordance with Title 4;

(b) Prohibits a party from spending funds for reasonable and necessary living expenses; or

(c) Prohibits a party from engaging in acts reasonable and necessary to conduct that party's usual business and occupation.

7. SERVICE AND APPLICATION OF THIS ORDER.

7.1 The Petitioner shall attach a copy of this order to the original petition and to each copy of the petition. 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.

- 7.2 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 this court. This entire order will terminate and will no longer be effective when the court signs a final order or the case is dismissed.
8. 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.
9. 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, to resolve the conflicts that may arise in this lawsuit.
10. BOND WAIVED. IT IS ORDERED that the requirement of a bond is waived.

THIS HUNT COUNTY STANDING ORDER REGARDING CHILDREN, PROPERTY AND CONDUCT OF THE PARTIES SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE ON OCTOBER 1, 2022.



J. Andrew Bench
Judge, 196th Judicial District



Keli Aiken
Judge, 354th Judicial District