



Honorable Jerome Hennigan
324th District Court
Local Administrative Judge

FILED
TARRANT COUNTY

2020 FEB 20 PM 2:46

THOMAS A. WILDER
DISTRICT CLERK

ORDER

On the 20th of February the District Judges of Tarrant County adopted a plan whereby all CPS cases would be heard by the Family Law Courts in the Family Law Center. A true and correct copy of the plan is attached hereto as Exhibit A and made a part hereof the same as if copied word for word.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. Family Law Courts, for the purpose of the random assignment of district court cases under the local rules, is defined to be the 231st, 233rd, 322nd, 324th, 325th, and 360th District Courts located in the Tarrant County Family Law Center.
2. All cases brought under Chapters 161 and 262 of the Texas Family Code (hereinafter CPS Cases) on or after March 1, 2020, will be randomly assigned to the Family Law Courts unless there is a court of continuing jurisdiction.
3. The Juvenile Court, for the purpose of the assignment of Juvenile cases under the local rules, is defined to be the 323rd District Court.
4. All juvenile cases will continue to be assigned to the Juvenile Court.
5. The Civil Courts, for the purpose of the random assignment of district court civil cases under the local rules, is defined to be the 17th, 48th, 67th, 96th, 141st, 153rd, 236th, 342nd, 348th, and 352nd District Courts.
6. The Criminal Courts, for the purpose of the random assignment of district court criminal cases under the local rules, is defined to be CDC1, CDC2, CDC3, CDC4, 213th, 297th, 371st, 372nd, 392nd, and 432nd District Courts.
7. The associate judge position currently held by the Hon. Ellen Smith is assigned to the Family Law Courts, subject to the approval of the Commissioner's Court for the use of an associate courtroom in the Tarrant County Family Law Center.

This order is a partial implementation of the plan. Further orders will issue to reassign and relocate all CPS cases currently assigned to the 323rd to the Family Law Courts on or before October 1, 2020. All parties are ordered to cooperate and assist in the transition.

Signed February 20th, 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerome Hennigan", written over a horizontal line.

Hon. Jerome Hennigan
Local Administrative Judge
Tarrant County

COURT MINUTE
TRANSACTION # 6015

CPS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION AND MOTION

The committee recommends a plan be adopted whereby all CPS cases will be heard in the Tarrant County Family Law Center (Family Law Center) and assigned to the 231st, 233rd, 322nd, 324th, 325th, and 360th District Courts (Family Law Courts¹) located in the Family Law Center.

It is the opinion of the committee that the consolidation of all CPS cases into one location will improve the administration of all cases, allow for the consolidation of resources, improve communications, be cost efficient and promote consistency. This will benefit the litigants, the various stakeholders, and court personnel. The committee recognizes that changes require transition periods and has built in a possible seven-month transition for the reassignment of all cases existing as of February 29, 2020.

It is the Committee recommendation that:

1) All CPS cases filed on or after March 1, 2020 will be randomly assigned to the Family Law Courts.

2) On or before October 1, 2020 all TMC CPS cases will be reassigned to the Family Law Courts.

3) On or before October 1, 2020 all PMC CPS cases will be reassigned to the Family Law Courts and/or will be heard in the Tarrant County Family Law Center by the Judge of the 323rd.

4) The associate judge position currently being held by Associate Judge Ellen Smith be reassigned/relocated to the Tarrant County Family Law Center. Future reassignment/relocation, if any, of a second associate judge position will be determined during the transition period.

5) The Local Administrative Judge be authorized to take all actions necessary to implement this plan to include but not limited to the entry of

¹ For the purposes of judicial administration and clarity, in the future the 231st, 233rd, 322nd, 324th, 325th, and 360th District Courts are referred to as the Family Law Courts. The 323rd District Court is referred to as the Juvenile Court.

administrative orders, requesting space, equipment and support from the Commissioners Court and from other officials supporting the courts.

6) For purposes of the application of local rules the Family Law Courts will be randomly assigned all family law cases except juvenile cases, which will continue to be assigned to the 323rd which is the court designated to hear juvenile cases.

The committee requests approval of the recommendation.



JUDGE JEROME HENNIGAN

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THOMAS A. WILDER
DISTRICT CLERK

Mr. Thomas A. Wilder
Tarrant County District Clerk
Tom Vandergriff Civil Courts Building
100 N. Calhoun, 2nd Floor
Fort Worth, Texas 76196-0402

Dear Mr. Wilder:

Enclosed please find the Order with the attached CPS Committee recommendation and motion arising from the Board of District Judges' Meeting held today, February 20, 2020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerome S. Hennigan".

JEROME S. HENNIGAN