EIGHTH ADMINISTRATIVE JUDICIAL REGION
RULES OF ADMINISTRATION

AUTHORITY. These rules are promulgated pursuant to Article 200a-1, V.T.C.S., and Supreme Court Rules of Judicial Administration, adopted February 4, 1987.

RULE 1: The general rule with respect to disposition of cases.

RULE 2: The specific requirements as to the information to be supplied by or to the administrative judges' of each county.

RULE 3: The rule governing the disposition of civil cases.

RULE 4: The rule governing the disposition of family law and juvenile cases.

RULE 5: The rule governing the disposition of felony and misdemeanor cases.

RULE 6: The rule governing the selection and control of juries.

RULE 7: The rule with respect to judges' vacations, absences, etc.

RULE 8: The rule with respect to rules.

RULE 9: The rule with respect to local courts administration.

RULE 10: The rule with respect to attorneys having conflicting engagements.

RULE 11: The rule with respect to attorneys' vacations.

RULE 1. TIME STANDARDS FOR THE DISPOSITION OF CASES. District and statutory county court judges of the county in which cases are filed should, as far as reasonably possible, ensure that all cases brought to trial or final disposition in conformity with the following time standards:

a. CRIMINAL CASES

As provided by law with preference given to defendants held in local custody.

b. CIVIL CASES OTHER THAN FAMILY LAW

(1) Civil Jury Cases

Within 18 months from appearance date.

(2) Civil Nonjury Cases

Within 12 months from appearance date.

c. FAMILY LAW CASES

(1) Contested Family Law Cases

Within 6 months from appearance date or within 6 months from the expiration of the waiting period provided by the Family Code where such is required, whichever is later.

(2) Uncontested Family Law Cases

Within 3 months from appearance date or within 3 months from the expiration of the waiting period provided by the Family Code where such is required, whichever is later.

d. JUVENILE CASES

As provided by Title 3, Texas Family Code or other applicable law.

e. COMPLEX CASES

It is recognized that in especially complex cases or special circumstances it may not be possible to adhere to these standards.

RULE 2. The local administrative judge of each county shall cause the proper clerk to send the regional presiding judge a copy of the report sent each month to the Office of Court Administration, and such other information regarding docket management systems of the county as may be requested by the presiding judge.

RULE 3. The board of judges or judges giving preference to civil cases in each county must adopt and uniformly follow local rules governing the filing, docketing and assignment of civil cases to achieve the time standards of Rule 6, Supreme Court Rules of Judicial Administration, and meet the requirements of Rules 7, 9, and 10, Supreme Court Rules of Judicial Administration.

RULE 4. The board of judges or judges giving preference to family law and juvenile cases in each county must adopt and uniformly follow local rules governing the filing, docketing and assignment of family law and juvenile cases to achieve the time standards of Rule 6, Supreme Court Rules of Judicial Administration, and meet the requirements of Rules 7, 9, and 10, Supreme Court Rules of Judicial Administration.

RULE 5. The board of judges or judges giving preference to criminal cases in each county must adopt and uniformly follow local rules conforming with the Code of Criminal Procedure, for the processing of criminal cases.

RULE 6. The board of judges of each county must adopt a jury plan governing the selection, management, assignment and time of jury service, and file the same with the district clerk, and, when required, secure the approval of the commissioners court.

RULE 7. The board of judges of each county must adopt a plan for judicial absences for vacation and educational events and a method of notifying the regional presiding judge of the need for visiting judges.

RULE 8. (a) The rules adopted by the several counties within each administrative region must conform to the requirements of these rules.

(b) The local rules must be numbered to cover the same subject matter as prescribed by these rules using a section numerical system and decimal subsection system in accordance with the following description of content. Local rules shall use a decimal system allowing for a larger group of special circumstances. 1.1, 1.11, 1.12, 1.2, 1.21; 2.1-10.99.

(c) Local rules shall not be effective until approved by the presiding judge of the administrative region and by the Supreme Court of Texas.

RULE 9. The Board of Judges of each county must adopt as a part of the local rules a rule providing for regular meetings of the judges, committee assignments and other designations of duties necessary to the work of the courts of the county as required by Chapter 5, Article 200a-1, V.T.C.S.

RULE 10. CONFLICTING ENGAGEMENTS.

(a) Attorney already in trial in another court:

(1) When an attorney is presently in trial, said attorney shall inform other courts of the court and cause number of the conflicting trial. This information will be verified upon request of opposing counsel. The case will be placed on "hold" or reset, depending on when the attorney will be released.

(2) If the attorney is not actually in trial as represented by the attorney or his or her agent, the case will be tried without further notice.

(b) An attorney assigned to more than one court for the same date:

(1) It is the duty of an attorney to call the affected judges' attention to all multiple settings as soon as they are known.

(2) Insofar as practicable, judges should attempt to agree on which case has priority, otherwise, the following priorities shall be observed by the judges of the respective courts:

(I) Criminal cases.

(II) Cases given preference by statute.

(III) Preferentially set cases.

(IV) Case with earliest filing date.

(V) Case set at earliest date by court official.

(VI) Courts should yield to courts in rural counties in an instance of conflicting setting where necessary to utilize a called jury panel.

RULE 11. ATTORNEY VACATIONS. Local courts shall establish rules providing, except when a case has been previously set, for attorneys vacations including provision for length of vacation and time of advance notice to the Court.

Adopted: October 1, 1987 by Council of Judges, Eighth Administrative Judicial Region.

Approved: October 1, 1987

Presiding Judge, Eighth Administrative Judicial Region