

IN RE: § IN THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW
AUDIO & VISUAL RECORDING § OF
COURTROOM PROCEEDINGS § NAVARRO COUNTY, TEXAS

STANDING ORDERS AND GUIDELINES FOR
PHOTOGRAPHING, RECORDING, AND BROADCASTING
COURT PROCEEDINGS

I.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Navarro County Court at Law, consistent with the Texas Code of Judicial Responsibility, Texas Rules of Civil Proceedings, and public policy considerations for the access of information to the public concerning the judicial system, does hereby adopt the following Orders and Guidelines for Photographing, Recording and Broadcasting in the Navarro County Court at Law Courtroom and any offices associated therewith.

The Court will interpret these Orders and Guidelines to provide the greatest access to the public, but also, maintaining the dignity, order, privacy of litigants, and impartiality of the Court proceedings. These Orders and Guidelines are subject to change or modification at the sole discretion of the Trial Court in order to assure justice.

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II.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to these Orders and Guidelines:

1. *Media Coverage* means any visual or audio coverage, recordings or transmissions of such visual or audio coverage by a media organization or any visual or audio coverage of any comments or conduct of any individual present in the Courtroom, before, during and/or after any

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By _____
Clerk, District Court, Navarro County, Texas

courtroom proceeding.

2. *Visual Coverage* is any visual coverage by any equipment that has the capacity to reproduce or transmit any image, including still and moving visual equipment and video equipment.

3. *Audio Coverage* is any audio coverage by any equipment that has the capacity to reproduce or transmit any sound, including tape, CD or any other sound recorder.

4. *Equipment* is anything capable of making an audio or visual picture or recording and/or anything capable of broadcasting such audio or visual recording.

5. *Trial Court* or *Court* is the Navarro County Court at Law and any offices associated therewith.

III.

AUDIO AND/OR VISUAL RECORDING AND/OR BROADCASTING

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

Audio and/or visual recording and/or broadcasting is allowed in the Courtroom and any offices associated therewith **as permitted by the Trial Court**, and only upon prior consent of the Trial Judge. Any request to audio and/or visually record and/or broadcast any proceeding must be filed with the District Clerk and a courtesy copy immediately provided for the Court. Any requests to audio and/or visually record and/or broadcast any proceeding must be made at least forty eight (48) hours prior to the hearing that a request is being made. The Court will rule on the request without a hearing, but shall advise the parties and/or counsel of such request and order and allow any objections to be made regarding such audio and/or video coverage and/or broadcasting. If any type of audio and/or visual recording and/or broadcasting is requested and an objection is stated by a party and/or counsel, the Court, at its sole discretion, will make a

decision on a case-by-case basis. The Court will, in making its decision, consider all relevant factors and give what weight is necessary to each factor.

Regardless of whether or not consent of the parties and/or witnesses is obtained, the Court may, in its discretion, grant, deny, limit or terminate any audio and/or visual recording and/or broadcasting at any time.

IV.

PROHIBITED AUDIO AND/OR VISUAL RECORDING AND/OR BROADCASTING

It is ORDERED that audio and/or visual recording and/or broadcasting of proceedings held in chambers, closed to the public, jury selection and jury deliberations is always prohibited.

It is further ORDERED that audio and/or visual recording and/or broadcasting of any conferences between an attorney and client, between attorneys, between attorney and staff and/or between attorneys and the Court at the bench, is strictly prohibited.

Additionally, it is ORDERED that audio and/or visual recording and/or broadcasting of any potential juror or jurors in the Courtroom is prohibited.

Further, it is ORDERED that audio and/or visual recording and/or broadcasting of any complaining witness in a sexual offense or of anyone under the age of 18 years, whether a party, a witness or other person who is or may be a participant in any case, is strictly prohibited.

V.

ANY OTHER VISUAL AND/OR AUDIO COVERAGE AND/OR BROADCASTING

It is ORDERED that any other visual and/or audio coverage and/or broadcasting of anything within the Navarro County Court at Law courtroom and/or offices and/or chambers is strictly prohibited, unless specifically authorized by the Court. This includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, any personal electronics capable of making an audio and/or video recording, and

security cameras and/or equipment for such.

VI.

OFFICIAL COURT RECORD

It is ORDERED that the transcript of the original notes of the court reporter made in open court is the official Court record. Any audio and/or visual recording and/or broadcasting that has been approved by the Trial Court shall not be considered a part of the official court record.

VII.

SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS

All persons, agencies, and/or organizations affected by this order are hereby advised and informed that any violations of this Court order may result in one or more sanctions being imposed. The Court may enforce these rules by any legal or equitable process.

SIGNED AND ORDERED, on this the 21 day of September, 2016.



**AMANDA D. PUTMAN
JUDGE, NAVARRO COUNTY COURT AT LAW
NAVARRO COUNTY, TEXAS**