

Hill 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 66th Judicial District Court and the Hill County Court at Law that applies in every divorce suit and every suit affecting the parent-child relationship filed in Hill County, *except cases initiated by the Attorney General of Texas or Child Protective Services*. The District Court and County Court at Law of Hill 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, for the purpose of changing the residence of the children or evading the jurisdiction of the court, acting directly or in concert with others, without the written agreement of both parties or an order of the court; provided, however, that this paragraph shall not prohibit or restrict a party from so removing the children if an active prior court order gives that party the right to designate the children's primary residence outside the State of Texas or without regard to geographic location.
 - 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 parents or an order of the court; provided, however, that this paragraph shall not prohibit or restrict a party from so withdrawing the children from a school or day-care facility if that party is changing the children's domicile or residence within that party's rights pursuant to an active prior court order as described in 1.1 above.
 - 1.3 Hiding or secreting the children from the other parent.
 - 1.4 Changing the children's current place of abode, without the written agreement of all parties or an order of the court; provided, however, that this paragraph shall not prohibit or restrict a party from changing such place of abode if an active prior court order gives that party the right to designate the children's primary residence without geographic restriction, or if the new place of abode lies within the geographic limits established by that active prior court order.
 - 1.5 Disturbing the peace of the children.
 - 1.6 Making disparaging remarks regarding the other party or the other party's family in the presence or within hearing of the child or children.
 - 1.7 Discussing with the children, or with any other person in the presence of the children, any litigation related to the children or any other party.

2. CONDUCT OF THE PARTIES DURING THE CASE. Both parties are **ENCOURAGED** to refrain from doing the following acts:

- 2.1 Using vulgar, profane, obscene, or indecent language, or a course of offensive manner, while communicating with the other party, whether in person, by telephone, or in writing. (Including text messaging or electronic communications.)
- 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 an unreasonable hour, in an offensive or repetitious manner, without a legitimate purpose of communication, or anonymously.
- 2.4 Causing bodily injury to the other party or, if applicable, to a child of either party.

Both parties are ORDERED to refrain from doing the following acts:

- 2.5 Opening, diverting or withholding or interfering with the delivery of mail addressed to the other party.
- 2.6 Unlawfully intercepting or unlawfully recording another party's electronic communications.

3. PRESERVATION OF PROPERTY. *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 of the parties.
- 3.2 Misrepresenting or refusing to disclose to the other party or to the Court, on proper request, the existence, amount, or location of any property of one or both of the parties.
- 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 document 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 expenses 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 Signing or endorsing the other party's name on 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.
- 3.11 Taking any action to terminate or limit credit or charge cards in the name of the other party.
- 3.12 Taking any action to obtain credit 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 reducing 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 Entering any safe-deposit box in the name of or subject to the control of Petitioner or Respondent, whether individually or jointly with others.
- 3.17 Communicating with the other party's employer or a person with whom the other party has a business relationship without a legitimate purpose.
- 3.18 Spending any portion of any State or Federal income tax refund received by either party, whether or not the parties to the suit have filed for a refund jointly or separately, without the written agreement of both parties, or a court order.