

401ST DISTRICT COURT

Honorable George B. Flint
Judge Presiding

Russell A. Steindam Courts Building
2100 Bloomdale Road, Suite 30030
McKinney, Texas 75071

COURTROOM DECORUM ORDER

In the exercise of its inherent power to provide for the orderly disposition of all pretrial and trial proceedings taking place in the 401st District Court, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

1. This Order is intended to apply to all proceedings in the courtroom of the 401st District Court and/or conducted by Zoom, regardless of location. There may be more detailed orders entered in particular high conflict or high interest cases with respect to seating and conduct of media, which when entered will supplement this Order.

2. In all cases the atmosphere in the courtroom must be quiet, calm, and deliberative. Evidence in a case may be complex, graphic, emotional, and sometimes very tedious. All persons attending proceedings must be willing to commit to a serious attitude.

3. Persons in the courtroom must remain silent during all proceedings. There will be no talking, whispering, shaking of heads, gestures, or any other signals or signs of approval or disapproval of the proceedings.

4. Persons may not cause distractions with electronic or mechanical devices, books, papers, or other materials during the court proceedings in the courtroom. Devices must be silenced in the courtroom. No one may make voice calls in the courtroom. A person who does not silence his/her device and causes a courtroom distraction is also subject to an immediate \$50 fine for direct contempt.

5. No one may photograph, record audio, or record video in the 401st District Court, except as specifically permitted by this order or by a supplemental order entered with respect to the particular case. No television, cell phone, personal video, or still cameras are allowed in the courtroom except as permitted by request and written order from the Court.

6. Children not mature enough to maintain decorum are not permitted in the courtroom.

7. There will be no drinks, snacks, or chewing gum in the courtroom, except for bottled water.

8. Persons in the courtroom must be dressed in appropriate courtroom attire. This means the best business attire at your disposal. Gentlemen should, if available, wear dress-collared shirts, ties, slacks, and suit jackets. Ladies should, if available, wear business suits.

9. No signs, banners, company or media logos, messages, clothing with messages, or other distracting, disruptive, or potentially improperly prejudicial material may be brought into, worn, or displayed in the courtroom.

10. Any attempt by anyone to communicate with or influence a member of the jury panel, juror, or alternate, before the return of a final judgment in the trial may be punished as a criminal cause of action and as criminal contempt of court and such other sanctions as deemed by the judge to be necessary for the due and proper administration of justice.

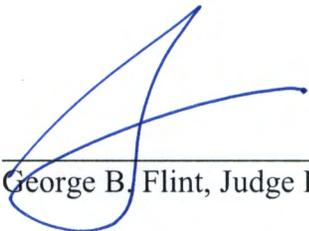
11. No member of the family, students, or public is allowed beyond the bar (the partition separating the gallery from the inner section of the courtroom) at any time, with the exception of lawyers, lawyers' staff, witnesses called to the witness stand, court employees, jurors, and other trial participants.

There are no warnings. Any violation of this or any other court orders, and any conduct the judge finds disruptive of the proceedings may result in:

- a. An order of temporary or permanent exclusion of the offender from the courtroom and security areas,
- b. Contempt of court sanctions, punishable by confinement in the Collin County jail for up to 6 months and a fine not to exceed \$500, for each offense, and
- c. Such other sanctions as deemed necessary by the judge to ensure the due and proper administration of justice.

Notice of this order shall be given by its posting online at the 401st District Court website maintained by Collin County and by posting outside of the 401st District Court courtroom.

SIGNED on February 23, 2021.



George B. Flint, Judge Presiding