LOCAL PROCEDURAL ORDER OF THE 66TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT AND COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF HILL COUNTY, TEXAS

- 1. In a case where there is pending litigation, or a case where suit has not been filed but the filing party knows that the opposing party is represented by counsel and a temporary restraining order is requested, Movant's counsel must attach a certificate of conference to the pleadings. That certificate must aver that the opposing counsel has been notified in writing of the time and date that the requesting party will be appearing at the judges chambers to request the temporary restraining order. Further, any request for a restraining order, other than one prohibiting the alienation of property in a divorce, must have an affidavit attached setting forth the required elements.
- 2. Prior to any hearing in family law cases where no written agreement has been reached, the counsel and their client's are required to sign a "check in" sheet at least one hour prior to the time set for the hearing. The "check in" sheets are located on a clipboard in the law library. Counsel and their clients are required to meet in the law library. All parties are required to view the TYLA video, "Kids in the Crossfire." Copies of the video and the remote control for the television are located in the District Judge's office. After viewing the video, the parties are ordered to negotiate in an effort to resolve or lessen the issues of contention. Counsel must certify to the Court that they have made a good faith effort to resolve the matter. The prior order of the courts requiring parties to attend the "Children in the Middle" or like seminar continues in full force and effect.
- 3. The Clerk of the Courts is directed to attach a copy of these procedural rules to any citation issued for the 66th District Court or County Court at Law in Hill County, Texas in a relevant case.

Signed and adopted this 15th day of May, 2006.

A. Lee Harris

Judge, County Court at Law

F.B. McGregor, Jr.

Judge, 66th Judicial District

IN THE DISTRICT, COUNTY COURT AT LAW AND COUNTY COURT OF HILL COUNTY, TEXAS

****ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER***

CASE MANAGEMENT/ASSIGNMENT PLAN AMONG THE SAID HILL COUNTY COURTS

The undersigned have by signature below agreed to a case management/assignment plant is so as to promote the more efficient disposition of litigation in Hill County, Texas, effective September 1st, 2005, and to that end, the undersigned make a memorandum of their understanding and agreement regarding the handling of cases filed in Hill County. Texas on or after September 1, 2005, until further notice/order to-wit:

District Court

- 1. The District Court has jurisdiction as provided by Art. V, Sec.8, Texas Constitution, 24.168, 26.209 and/or 25.1104 of the Government Code and/or otherwise as provided by law.
- 2. Juvenile cases and contested probate/guardianship cases, filed with the District Clerk and bearing even numbered cases are to remain in District Court; such odd numbered cases filed with the District Clerk on or after 9-1-2005, shall be assigned to County Court at Law.
- 3. Even numbered civil cases filed with the District Clerk remain with the District Court, with odd numbered civil cases with the District Clerk filed on or after 9-1-2005 assigned to the County Court at Law, except that the following civil cases will remain in the District Court and not be so transferred, regardless of even or odd number assignment by Clerk, although the Judges of the County Court at Law and District Court may "exchange benches" by agreement, in said matters, and nothing herein precludes same, to-wit:
 - A. All suits for removal of governmental officials.
 - B. All election contests.
 - C. All misdemeanors involving official misconduct.
- D. Suits for title to lands, other than as related to family law or probate matters heard in the County Court at Law, as may be allowed by law.
- E. Suits for escheat unto the State and taxes due political subdivisions and entities of the State.
- F. Civil suits in which matter in controversy exceeds of \$100,000.00, excluding interest, statutory or punitive damages and penalties, and attorney's fees and costs, as alleged on the face of the petition.
- G. Appeals of final rulings and decisions of the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission, regardless of the amount in controversy.
- H. Proceedings and causes concerning roads, bridges, and public highways and the general administration of county business that is within the jurisdiction of the Honorable Commissioner's Court of the County.

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- 4. Suits pending in a Court as of August 31, 2005 will remain with that Court, unless a separate transfer Order is signed.
- 5. All felony matters, except those specifically transferred to County Court at Law.
- 6. All capital murder cases.
- 7. Uncontested family law matters on behalf of the County Court at Law Judge, by way of this agreement to exchange benches for this purpose.
- 8. Serve on the juvenile board, and perform all general magistrate duties.

County Court at Law

- 1. All jurisdiction as provided by Sec. 25.0003, Texas Government Code and HB No. 1622, 25.1111 and/or 25.1112, Government Code, as may be applicable, and otherwise as provided by law, including concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in family law cases and proceedings, and concurrent in felony matters, as assigned.
- 2. Juvenile cases and contested probate jurisdiction, with odd numbered juvenile and contested probate cases filed on or after 9-1-2005 with the District Clerk, assigned to County Court at Law.
- 3. All odd numbered civil cases filed with the District Clerk on or after 9-1-2005 assigned to the County Court at Law, except as specifically reserved in the District Court as above noted.
- 4. All civil and criminal appeals from a justice court of Hill County will be heard in the County Court at Law, regardless of even or odd numbering by the Clerk, and unless otherwise agreed by and between the judges.
- 5. Primary court for misdemeanors although both the District and County Courts may hear these matters as may be expeditious and in prudent exercise of concurrent jurisdiction.
- 6. Felony cases heard in County Court at Law will be as specifically assigned by the District Court.
- 7. Odd numbered contested guardianship and probate matters will be heard in the County Court at Law.
- 8. Other matters as assigned by the District Court, and/or as agreed per HB 1622, or by law.
- 9. Exchange benches with the District Judge and sit in the District Court by assignment.
- 10. Concurrent jurisdiction with the county court over all causes and proceedings, civil and criminal, original and appellate, prescribed by law for the (constitutional) county court, but not over matters related to administration of county government and involving the Commissioner's Court.
- 11. "Family Law" cases and proceedings include adoptions, birth records, removal of disability of minority or coverture, changes of names of persons, child welfare, custody, support and reciprocal support, dependency, neglect, or delinquency, paternity, termination of parental rights, divorce and marriage annulment, including the adjustment of property rights, custody and support or minor children involved therein, temporary

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support pending final hearing and every other matter involving divorce or annulment proceedings, independent actions involving child support, custody of minors, and wife or child desertion and independent actions involving controversies between parents and child, between parents and between spouses. (25.0002 Govt. Code)

- 12. Uncontested family law matters on any date on behalf of the District Judge, by this agreement to exchange benches in all such matters.
- 13. Serve on the juvenile board, and perform all general magistrate duties.

County Judge

- 1. All jurisdiction provided under Constitution of 1876, State of Texas, and Art. 26.209 Government Code, as amended.
- 2. Primary court, among Hill County courts, for uncontested probate matters, although the District Court may act per Art. 24.168, Government Code, and by the County Court at Law under 25.0003(a), Government Code, but the District Court has no original probate jurisdiction.
- 3. Primary court, among Hill County Courts, for uncontested guardianships and mental health matters/commitments, although the District Court may act per Art. 24.168, Government Code, and by the County Court at Law judge per 25.0003, but the District Court has no original jurisdiction.
- 4. Primary court for alcohol licenses/hearings.
- 5. The state law affording the constitutional county court jurisdiction in protective order cases, under article 71.001 Texas Family Code, is noted, and on request of a filing party, such case(s) will be placed by the District Clerk with the County Judge for hearing.
- 6. Concurrent jurisdiction with County Court at Law and District Court judges to assist in disposing of misdemeanor matters, in whatever manner the judges deem expeditious.
- 7. Serves as presiding officer of the Commissioner's Court and has sole administrative responsibility as the County Judge involving all county operations.
- 8. All original probate/guardianship matters will be filed in the County Clerk's office.
- 9. Serve on the juvenile board, and perform all general magistrate duties.

The above procedural agreements and arrangements among the Courts in Hill County is so ORDERED, and all doing business with the said Courts shall give strict obedience and compliance therewith, to the full extent allowed by law.

SIGNED effective the 1st day of September, 2005.

F.B. (Bob) McGregor, Jf.

66th District Court Judge and Local Administrative District Judge

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1. Lee Harris

County Court at Law Judge, Hill County

Kenneth Davis County Judge, Hill County