

143RD DISTRICT COURT STANDING ORDER

REGARDING DIVORCE SUITS

1,7,25 FILED A.M.
VALERIE ROMO
DISTRICT CLERK, WARD CO. TX 9:58
Valerie Romo DEPUTY

The Court ORDERS that in all Suits for Divorce, no final contested trial, by court or by jury, shall be set without:

- 1) The parties attempting mediation to resolve the contested issues, and providing certification of said attempt with acknowledgment from all parties and the mediating party,
- 2) The parties attempting any other form of alternative dispute resolution, and providing certification of said attempt with acknowledgment from all parties participating in said attempt, OR
- 3) The parties providing a "JOINT REQUEST FOR FINAL CONTESTED HEARING," outlining the issues to be determined at said contested hearing, as well as the approximate time needed by all parties to litigate said issues.

Notwithstanding the above, the Court maintains its ability to order mediation on its own motion.

In the matter of Pro Se divorces –

- 1) The Court MAY appoint an amicus attorney to assist the court in division of property, particularly when said property division is contested.
- 2) As with represented parties, pro se parties are to attempt some form of alternative dispute resolution prior to any contested final hearing and must sign a certificate of attempt to be filed with the District Clerk.
- 3) Pro se parties shall each be ordered to pay an appropriate portion of the cost of a) any appointed amicus attorney, or b) any Court Ordered mediation.

The Court advises all parties in divorce suits to attempt a resolution of all disputes prior to a contested hearing or jury trial. This preserves your time, as well as the Court's time, and allows for a more efficient resolution of divorce suits. The Court appreciates efficiency in all matters. **If you are not ready for a final hearing, please advise the Court accordingly.**

Keep in mind Ernest Hemingway's words of wisdom –

"When people talk, listen completely. Most people never listen."

Don't be "most people."

SIGNED: January 7, 2025.

Alan Nicholas

ALAN NICHOLAS, JUDGE PRESIDING