

## GENERAL ZOOM ADMONISHMENTS FOR THE 126<sup>th</sup> J.D. COURT

The Court will call Cause No - \_\_\_\_\_. Please state your appearances.

Hello and welcome. We are conducting this hearing via electronic means. This is a virtual courtroom and you should treat this hearing as though you were in a real courtroom. Please conduct yourselves in the same manner you would if you were in a real courtroom. The same rules of decorum apply, except that you may remain seated when addressing the Court. The Travis County Local Rules are still in effect.

**(IF THE HEARING IS ON YOUTUBE)** This hearing is open to the public via live streaming on YouTube and this hearing is currently being live streamed to YouTube.

Recording / Official Record - Recording this proceeding is prohibited without express permission being granted. This applies to both the participants of the hearing **(IF HEARING IS ON YOUTUBE: and anyone who may be watching the livestream on YouTube)**. Therefore, IT IS ORDERED that anyone who is participating or watching this proceeding is prohibited from recording this proceeding without express permission being granted by the Court, if you violate this Order, you may be subject to Contempt of Court or other punishment.

I will not be recording this proceeding for any public use. I will not be saving any chat. The official record of this proceeding is the court reporter's record if a record is being made. The chat function has been turned off by the Court for this hearing. If a party needs the chat feature to tender evidence into the record, permission to use the function in this way must be requested by the party of the Court.

Witnesses / The Rule - I am Sua Sponte invoking "The Rule". All witnesses shall remain in the waiting room until they are called to testify and I will bring them into the virtual courtroom when it is their turn to testify. Each attorney is responsible for admonishing his or her respective witnesses regarding "The Rule". **(IF THE HEARING IS ON YOUTUBE: Witnesses are expressly forbidden from viewing the proceeding via the YouTube live stream.** Witnesses shall be required to log into zoom using their real names or they will not be allowed to testify. There should also not be any communication with witnesses in violation of The Rule.

Everyone is instructed not to communicate with any witness in any manner while the witness is giving testimony except for the attorneys who may question the witness orally only. To be clear, there should be no texting, calling, emailing, using Zoom private chat, or other forms of communication to the witness while they are testifying except for the attorneys asking questions of the witness. Therefore, IT IS ORDERED, that no one may communicate with a witness while a witness is testifying except for myself and the attorneys who will be orally questioning the witness. The witnesses shall turn off their phones, computers, laptops and any other device that they can access while testifying with the exception of those devices needed to participate in the hearing and testify. The witnesses shall not have anything in their hands while they are testifying, look at any notes, and shall only testify from memory except that they may look at documents as requested by the attorneys for the Court.

Testimony / Argument - When you are not speaking, please "mute" your microphone. Please be mindful of not speaking over each other, or over me. If there is an objection, please raise real or virtual hand to get the Court's attention so the Court can pause the testimony. Then unmute yourself and state your "objection" For witnesses, they shall stop testifying if they hear someone saying objection.

If an attorney needs to converse privately with their client, I can setup a breakout room for the attorney and client to communicate.