

ORIGINAL

PETITION NUMBER: 2020-00197J AMENDED

THE STATE OF TEXAS
IN THE MATTER OF
W. M.P.

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
315th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

FILED
Marilyn Burgess
District Clerk
Time: JAN 13 2021
By: [Signature]
Harris County, Texas
Deputy

ORDER IMPOSING RULES FOR MEDIA COVERAGE

FILED
Marilyn Burgess
District Clerk
Time: JAN 14 2021
By: [Signature]
Harris County, Texas
Deputy

To ensure the fair, orderly administration of justice in this case and in other cases currently before our sister courts, and to ensure the constitutional rights of the parties, counsel for the parties, and the media, the Court finds it necessary to issue the following Order in the following case:

- Petition No. 2020-00197J Amended

This Order takes effect immediately and will remain in effect until the conclusion of all proceedings.

Accordingly, the Court issues the following rules that will be in effect for the duration of all proceedings in Petition No. 2020-00197J Amended:

1. No video or audio recording equipment or cameras of any kind shall be permitted in the courtroom without express permission from the Court;
2. Livestreaming inside the courtroom is strictly **prohibited** without express permission from the Court;
3. Audio recording of any proceeding, including those available via a virtual platform, is strictly **prohibited** without express permission from the Court;
4. Video recording of any proceeding, including those available via a virtual platform, is strictly **prohibited** without express permission from the Court
5. All media coverage is **prohibited** for any proceedings held in chambers and / or proceedings closed to the public;

6. Conferences between an attorney and client, witness, investigator or aid shall **not** be recorded or received by any sound equipment. Bench conferences between counsel and the Court at the bench shall **not** be recorded or received by sound equipment;

7. Media personnel shall not use equipment that produces distracting sound or light. The equipment shall not display visible signal lights or devices that indicate when equipment is in operation;

8. Media personnel shall not use moving lights, flash attachments, or cause sudden lighting changes when recording events in the courtroom;

9. Existing courtroom sound and lighting systems shall be used without modification;

10. Media personnel shall not move equipment or cause distractions when Court is in session;

11. Media personnel outside the courtroom shall not create distractions and shall avoid restricting movement of persons passing through the halls and/or the doors to the courtroom;

12. The Court may require media personnel to demonstrate that proposed equipment complies with these Rules;

13. The Court may specify the placement of media personnel and equipment to permit reasonable coverage without disruption to the proceedings;

14. No proceeding or session of Court will be delayed or continued for the sole purpose of allowing media coverage. Upon request, the Court will inform media agencies of settings and will attempt to make the courtroom available in advance for the purpose of installing equipment;

15. Film, video tapes, photographs or audio reproductions made of court proceedings by media personnel shall not be considered part of the official Court record.

16. The Court may exclude from the courtroom any media personnel who fails to comply with these Rules; further, a violation of these Rules by the media may be sanctioned by appropriate measures.

This Court shall entertain reasonable requests, including requests by the media, to modify this Order as the need arises.

Direct any requests or questions to Cindy Milom: Cindy_Milom@justex.net.

All persons employed by a media organization, company or entity shall be presumed to have notice of all provisions of this Order. The Court orders that a copy of this Order shall be delivered to members of the media attending proceedings, and that each media organization shall be responsible for ensuring that its employees have notice of the provisions of this Order

Date Signed: 1-14-2021



Leah Shapiro
Judge, 315th District Court