

Local Rules

District Courts Of Fort Bend County

OBJECTIVE OF RULES

The objective of the rules of the District Courts of Fort Bend County is to obtain a just, fair, equitable and impartial adjudication of the rights of litigants under established principles of substantive law and established rules of procedural law.

Where attorney or counsel is used in these rules, the term shall also include a pro se party/party not represented by counsel.

1. **TIME STANDARDS:** District Judges in Fort Bend County should, as far as reasonably possible, ensure that all cases are brought to trial or final disposition in conformity with the following standards:
 - 1.1. **Criminal cases:** Within 12 months of arrest or indictment whichever is earlier.
 - 1.2. **Civil cases other than Family Law:**
 - 1.2.1. **Civil jury cases.** Within 18 months of appearance date.
 - 1.2.2. Civil non-jury cases. Within 12 months from appearance date.
 - 1.3. **Family Law Cases:**
 - 1.3.1. Contested Family Law Cases. Within 6 months from appearance date or within 6 months from the expiration of the waiting period provided by the Family Code where such is required, whichever is later.
 - 1.3.2. Uncontested Family Law Cases. Within 3 months from appearance date or within 3 months from the expiration of the waiting period provided by the Family Code where such is required, which is later.
 - 1.4. **Complex cases:** It is recognized that in especially complex or special circumstances it may not be possible to adhere to these standards.
2. **REPORTS TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE:** The district clerk shall supply to the Administrative Judge of Fort Bend County, on a monthly basis, information concerning the number of filings, dispositions, trials and other judicial activities in each court.
3. **CIVIL CASES**
 - 3.1. **FILING & ASSIGNMENT.** On being filed, a case shall be assigned randomly to the docket of one of the courts. Once assigned to a court, a case will remain on the docket of that court for all purposes unless transferred.
 - 3.2. **TRANSFER:**