

- 6.2 Order of Referral. This Rule shall constitute the Order of Referral required by TFC section 201.006(a)(2), to any pending or future cases under Title 1, 2, 4, or 5.

RULE 7. ALTERNATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 7.1 Temporary Hearings. In cases involving disputed custody or visitation issues, the court shall make referrals for mediation to the Dispute Resolution Center or private mediators, or as agreed upon by the parties and attorneys. Additional issues may be mediated by agreement of the parties and attorneys. Attorneys of record may attend all mediations. Except for good cause shown, no temporary hearings involving disputed custody or visitation issues will be conducted until the issues have been mediated.
- 7.2 Final Trial. Except for good cause shown, all cases shall be submitted for alternate dispute resolution procedures before trial, as provided in paragraph 7.1.
- 7.3 Settlement Weeks. Referral of appropriate cases to alternate dispute resolution procedures shall also be made at one or more settlement weeks each year, as provided by law.

RULE 8. CONFLICTING ENGAGEMENTS

- 8.1 Inter-County. The Rules of the Second Administrative Judicial Region control conflicts in settings of all cases between a Fort Bend County court and a non-Fort Bend County court.
- 8.2 Intra-County. Among the trial courts sitting in Fort Bend County:
- 8.2.1 Trial/Trial. An assigned trial setting takes precedence over a conflicting trial setting not yet assigned;
- 8.2.2 Trial/Non-Trial. An assigned trial setting takes precedence over conflicting non-trial settings, except as to a court-ordered mediation that is scheduled prior to the assignment to trial;
- 8.2.3 Non-Trial/Pre-Trial Intra-Court. The matter which was first filed, regardless of cause number, shall take precedence over subsequently filed non-trial settings, non-court-ordered alternate dispute resolution and non-court-ordered depositions.
- 8.3 Judge or Associate judge. This rule is applicable whether the matter is assigned to the judge or the associate judge of a court.