

RULES OF THE 328TH AND 387TH DISTRICT COURTS
OF FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS

(Amended effective September 18, 2000)

RULE 1. OBJECTIVE

- 1.1 Purpose of the Rules. Obtaining a fair, just and impartial adjudication of the rights of the parties and the children is the purpose of these rules. These rules encourage using alternate dispute resolution in all appropriate cases.
- 1.2 The rules shall apply equally to attorneys, parties and parties appearing pro se.

RULE 2. TRANSFER OF CASES

- 2.1 Transfer. Continuing Exclusive Jurisdiction. All provisions of the Texas Family Code ("TFC") regarding continuing, exclusive jurisdiction and transfer shall take priority over these rules, provided that all such cases ending in an odd cause number shall be heard in the 387th District Court, except that all cases filed by the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services shall be heard in the 328th District Court, per General Transfer Order signed August 27, 1999. All such cases ending in an even number shall be heard in the 328th District Court.
- 2.2 Multiple Suits. Subject to paragraph 2.1, when a suit is filed in the 328th or the 387th District Court of Fort Bend County (referred to as Family District courts) and is in any way terminated (by non-suit or otherwise), a subsequent suit or cause of action involving substantially the same parties or the same subject matter shall be filed in, or transferred to, the court that first had jurisdiction of the parties or subject matter. This rule applies to all controversies, including divorce, support, conservatorship and all matters incident to them, whether sought by original proceedings or by modification, clarification or enforcement of a former order, judgement or settlement agreement. When such a situation is disclosed for the first time after the hearing begins, the judge of the court shall immediately order the suit transferred to the court in which the prior suit was filed.
- 2.3 Enforcement of Consent Decree or Contract. Subject to paragraph 2.1 any action for the enforcement of a consent decree or contract arising out of or in conjunction with any action previously filed in any of the family District Courts shall be filed in the same court.