

JOINT POLICY AGREEMENT

BETWEEN THE FORT BEND DISTRICT CLERK AND THE FORT BEND COUNTY CLERK REGARDING ACCESS TO ONLINE COURT RECORDS

Fort Bend District Clerk, **Beverley McGrew Walker**, and Fort Bend County Clerk, **Laura Richard**, have agreed to continue to make online court records available only to attorneys and other officers of the court via a login and password.

The Clerks' decision was driven by the environment in which we live where federal, state, and local agencies are under constant threat from cyberattacks and data breaches which result in the revelation of private information to the public.

Attorneys and other officers of the court will be able to search civil and criminal records using a cause number or a party name, view the list of chronological case filings in each record, and print non-official documents.

An assigned login may be obtained by submitting a completed **Secured Access Enrollment Form** to the District Clerk's office via email to the attention of distclerkPAR@fortbendcountytexas.gov.

Restricted and sealed cases are not available via an online search. Please contact the District Clerk's Office for further information regarding these cases. In person viewing of restricted and sealed cases can be arranged through a visit to the District Clerk's office at 1422 Eugene Heimann Circle; Richmond, Texas Room 31004.

Only persons specifically designated by statute or the Court's Order will be allowed access to restricted and sealed case files or parts of a file.

The decision of the clerks is further supported by the following law governing civil cases:

Texas Rules of Civil Procedure Sec. 21c (f) which states:

(f) *Restriction on Remote Access:* Documents that contain sensitive data in violation of this rule must not be posted on the internet.

Comment to 2013 Change: Rule 21c is added to provide privacy protection for documents filed in civil cases.



Beverley McGrew Walker
Fort Bend County
DISTRICT CLERK



Laura Richard
Fort Bend County
COUNTY CLERK