



TRENT D. FARRELL
Judge 52nd Judicial District Court
Coryell County Courthouse
Gatesville, Texas 76528

Re: Submission of Final Decree of Divorce, SAPCR and Modification Orders

Counsel:

All courts in Coryell County will now accept submission of divorce decrees for signature without requiring the "prove up" with live testimony. The process will be similar to what has been accepted for the submission of SAPCR and Modification orders for signature.

All Final Decree of Divorce orders submitted to the court for signature without live testimony must comply with the following conditions without exception:

1. Submitted orders must be agreed final decrees with the signature of all parties.
2. All respondents must have an answer or waiver of citation on file prior to submission.
3. Insupportability is the only acceptable finding for submission. Any other finding requires live testimony.
4. No deviation from the statutory standard possession order.
5. No provisions for child under 3.
6. No deviation from statutory child support and insurance requirements and guidelines (i.e., no agreements not to pay or to deviate from support guidelines due to "split custody" arrangement).
7. No protective, restraining, injunctive, or family violence orders or relief may be incorporated into the submitted decree.
8. No default cases may be submitted.
9. Regardless of whether a particular case meets all the requirements stated above, the Court at its discretion, may require live "prove up" testimony in any case in which it deems such testimony necessary or helpful.

To have a Final Decree of Divorce, SAPCR or Modification Order signed by submission, counsel must file the proposed order with the clerk's office and then coordinate a setting with the court coordinator on the next available docket. The clerk's office will then pull the file containing the order for presentation to the court at the appropriate time.

When submitting orders for signature without live testimony, counsel of record is responsible for ensuring that all requirements have been met. Supervisory lawyers are responsible for the actions of supervised lawyers and all non-lawyer assistants. Submission of noncomplying decrees for signature may result in the Court requiring live testimony on all of the particular lawyer or firm's future cases.

Judge John R. Lee
County Court at Law

Judge Grant Kinsey
440th District Court

Judge Trent D. Farrell
52nd District Court