

# **BASTROP COUNTY**

Associate Judge, 423<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District and the County Court at Law  
804 Pecan Street  
Bastrop, Texas 78602

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December 22, 2022

## **ASSOCIATE JUDGE - INFORMATION AND POLICIES**

The 423<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District and the County Court at Law of Bastrop County each entered separate and independent Omnibus Orders of Referral that refer certain cases to the Associate Judge. Both omnibus orders are posted on the county website.

### **Rules of the Referring Court**

All applicable local rules and policies of the referring Court will continue to apply to any corresponding case referred to the Associate Judge. As an example, the 423<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District's *Standing Order Regarding Family Law Cases* of January 27, 2020 will continue to apply to all cases filed in the 423<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District. The *Local Rules of the County Court at Law* will continue to apply to all cases filed in the County Court at Law.

### **Setting Cases**

All settings on the docket of the Associate Judge will be made by the Court Coordinator of the Associate Judge. Inquiries for available dates and requests for settings may be made in person, by telephone or by e-mail. It is strongly recommended that attorneys make all requests by e-mail. Parties and attorneys must make reasonable and genuine efforts to confer with each other about the date and time of a hearing or trial before requesting a setting.

The party who obtains the setting must give notice to all parties in the manner and within the time provided by the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules. The Court Coordinator will not send notices of settings or hearings.

### **Courtroom**

Hearings and trials before the Associate Judge are assigned to different courtrooms by the Court Coordinator for the Associate Judge. The parties will be notified of the courtroom assignment at the time the matter is set for a hearing or trial. Please direct questions about the courtroom assignment to the Court Coordinator of the Associate Judge.

Notices of hearings and trials before the Associate Judge must direct the parties to appear in the courtroom designated by the Court Coordinator **not** the Court listed in the style of the case.

### **Trial on the Merits - Objections to Associate Judge**

A party may object to the assignment of the Associate Judge to hear a trial on the merits, subject to the omnibus order of referral and all applicable rules. The objection must be in writing and in a separate form. The objection must be filed no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> day after receipt of notice of referral. Review the corresponding Omnibus Order of Referral as each automatically refers certain matters listed therein.

### **Trial on the Merits - *De Novo* Hearing**

Except as limited by an order of referral, the Associate Judge may render and sign a final order if all parties waive the right to a *de novo* hearing before the referring Court. The waiver must be in writing and filed or presented in open court before the start of a hearing conducted by the Associate Judge. The Associate Judge may refer the trial on the merits back to the referring Court if all parties do not waive the right to a *de novo* hearing.

### **Self-Represented Litigant**

All parties representing themselves must comply with the above, the Local Rules, the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, and all applicable rules. The Court Coordinator cannot provide legal advice or assist with drafting documents.

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The above information and policies do not encompass all of the applicable rules. If any provision contained herein conflicts with a Local Rule, statute or regulation, the latter shall control. The information contained here may be updated on an ongoing basis.

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