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DAVID MOORMAN
JUDGE, 12TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

TRACY SORENSEN
JUDGE, 278TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

September 18, 2025

Re: Attorney Vacations in Walker County, Madison County, Grimes County and Leon County in the 12th Judicial District Court and 278th Judicial District Court

Dear Counsel:

Effective January 1, 2026, the 12th District Court and the 278th District Court are going to start consistently implementing and applying the Second Administrative Judicial Region of Texas' Rule 11 regarding attorney vacations. Rule 11 states as follows:

11.1 Designation of Vacation. Subject to the provision of 11.2 and 11.3 of this rule, an attorney may designate not more than four weeks of vacation during a calendar year as vacation, during which that attorney will not be assigned to trial or required to engage in any pretrial proceedings. This rule operates only where lead counsel, as defined by TRCP 8, is affected, unless the trial court expands coverage to other counsel.

11.2 Summer Vacations. Written designation for vacation weeks during June, July or August must be filed with the district clerk by May 15. Summer vacation weeks so designated will protect the attorney from trials during those summer weeks, even if an order setting the case for trial was signed before the vacation designation was filed.

11.3 Non-Summer Vacations. Written designation for vacation in months other than June, July or August must be filed with the district clerk by February 1. Non-summer vacation weeks may not run consecutively for more than two weeks at a time. Non-summer vacation weeks so designated will not protect an attorney from a trial by an order signed before the date the designation is filed.

When your vacation letters are filed with the district clerk, the courts will confirm by letter that your vacation dates are (1) protected from all settings, (2) protected from future settings or (3) not protected. If your dates are not protected the court will indicate the reason in the confirmation.