

STANDING ORDER IN LIMINE FOR CRIMINAL JURY TRIALS

For the 12th Judicial District Court & 278th Judicial District Court

During the trial of any criminal jury case in the District Court, unless and except to the extent that this Order is expressly suspended as to a specific proceeding, no attorney shall mention, refer to, or suggest, in the presence or hearing of the jury, the venire panel, or any member thereof, any of the matters set forth below without first approaching the bench and obtaining a ruling from the Court authorizing such reference.

Each attorney is further directed to instruct their client(s), client representatives, and all non-adverse witnesses they may call to testify to similarly refrain from any such statements, references, or suggestions unless required to truthfully respond to a question posed by opposing counsel.

WARNING: Violation of this Standing Order may result in contempt proceedings or referral to the State Bar for disciplinary review, as deemed appropriate by the Court.

The following matters are prohibited from being raised before the jury unless authorized by the Court:

1. Discussion of facts of the case during voir dire (allegations in the indictment may be referenced).
2. Whether the defendant has applied for, or intends to apply for, probation.
3. The range of punishment, if punishment is to be assessed by the Court.
4. Commitment questions during voir dire.
5. Argument of the case during voir dire or opening statement.
6. Any reference by the State to the defendant's right to remain silent.
7. Reference to the enhancement portion of the indictment during voir dire or opening; this portion shall not be read during the guilt-innocence phase.
8. Mention of any ex parte statement by a witness unless and until the witness testifies inconsistently with that statement.
9. Any statement about or suggestion as to the probable testimony of a witness who is unavailable.
10. Hearsay statements concerning medical diagnoses or opinions provided by health care providers to an alleged victim.
11. Display of documents, photographs, or visual aids to the jury before tendering to opposing counsel and obtaining Court approval or admission into evidence.
12. Requests for stipulations or demands for admission or denial of facts in the presence of the jury.
13. Expressions of counsel's personal opinion as to any witness's credibility.
14. Questions to any witness regarding whether another witness lied or lacks credibility, except as permitted by Texas Rules of Evidence 404 and 405.
15. Expressions of counsel's personal opinion on the guilt or innocence of the defendant.
16. Offering witnesses or documents not disclosed in accordance with the Standing Discovery Order or other discovery rulings, without first seeking Court approval.

17. Objections based on undisclosed discovery shall be raised outside the jury's presence and, when possible, addressed during pretrial proceedings.
18. (Intentionally omitted to maintain numbering consistent with original.)
19. (Intentionally omitted.)
20. Any reference to polygraph examinations or offers to take one.
21. Mention of extraneous offenses—adjudicated or not—without prior approval of the Court, unless it constitutes an element of the charged offense.
22. Argument on objections, unless invited by the Court.
23. Reference to the timing or circumstances surrounding the defendant's retention or appointment of legal counsel.

SIGNED this 15th day of December, 2025.



David W. Moorman
Judge, 12th Judicial District



Tracy Sorensen
Judge, 278th Judicial District