ADDITIONS TO GRAYSON COUNTY LOCAL RULES
397TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

CERTIFICATES OF CONFERENCE

A. All motions filed with the Court that are Agreed or Unopposed should be styled as such and include a certificate from the filing attorney that the motion is agreed or unopposed.

B. With the exception of dispositive motions, no hearing will be set by the Court unless the motion contains a Certificate of Conference indicating that the parties have conferred in good faith and agreement could not be reached.

C. Certificates of conference will contain detailed information about attempts to confer. It will not be acceptable for a simple conclusory statement to be provided that an attempt to confer was made. The Court reserves the right to refuse a hearing if an adequate attempt to confer was not made.

MEDIATION

A. A final hearing or trial on the merits shall not be conducted in any case until all contested issues have been referred to ADR, and ADR has been unsuccessful.

B. If any party objects to ADR, it may object to ADR by filing a motion similar to the procedure outlined in Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code, § 154. If, after conducting a hearing, the Court finds there is a reasonable basis for the objection, the Court may, in its discretion, order that the case be set for a trial on the merits.

C. The Court reserves the right to excuse the parties from mediation as it deems appropriate.

ENTRY OF ORDERS

As indicated in the Local Rules, if opposing counsel has not signed off on proposed orders, a Motion for Entry of Order may be filed. The Court expects to be notified if there are objections to the proposed orders. Accordingly, anyone opposing the entry of orders submitted to the Court must file written objections to the proposed orders. If written objections are not filed within 10 days of submission of the proposed orders, the Court will assume there are no objections and will sign the proposed orders.

CONFLICTING SETTINGS

All settings for which counsel may have a conflict require prior notice to the Court, and when appropriate, a motion for continuance. The Court will honor and prioritize settings as set out in the Local Rules for Trial Settings.

SPECIFIC TO FAMILY LAW CASES

TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDERS

A. **Application Without Supporting Affidavit.**

1. If a party applies for a temporary restraining order without a supporting affidavit, the Court will enter the Court's Standing Order relating to family law matters which will remain in place until any further Court orders.
2. If a party desires relief from or modification of the Court's Standing Family Law Order, that party must file a motion with the Court setting out specifically the grounds for the requested relief.
    a. No hearing will be granted on such motion unless the requesting party files a Certificate of Conference indicating agreement could not be reached on the specific grounds mentioned in the motion.
3. If no temporary order is requested consistent with these policies and rules, the Court will set the matter for a status hearing.

B. **Time Limits**

1. In all temporary hearings, unless given Court permission based on unique or unusual circumstances, the parties shall be given approximately twenty-five (25) minutes each to present the issues.
2. In all other temporary matters, including a modification of a temporary order, the parties shall be granted not more than thirty minutes to present the case, which time shall be equally divided.
3. Counsel should request a special setting or extra time at the time the application for temporary relief is presented to the Court for scheduling when, because of unusual circumstances, the time limits are unworkable or inappropriate. The Court shall determine the amount of time that shall be allotted for any such hearing.

C. **Social Studies**

1. In cases where child custody is at issue, the parties shall be required to have a Social Study completed prior to any final hearing.
2. If any party objects to a Social Study, ADR, it may file a motion asking to relieve the parties of that requirement. If, after conducting a hearing, the Court finds a Social Study is not needed, the Court may, in its discretion, excuse the parties from this requirement.

D. **Inventory and Appraisement Required**

1. In all cases in which the character, value or division of property or debts is in issue, each party shall file, an inventory and appraisement consistent with the guidelines of the Local Rules of Court of the District Courts and the County Courts at Law of Grayson County.
2. It is recommended that each party file this inventory in a form substantially similar to Form 5-1 of the Texas Family Law Practice Manual published by the State Bar

of Texas, or in a form substantially similar to the one available from the Coordinator of the 397th District Court.

E. Composite Inventory and Appraisement

1. After each party's sworn inventory and appraisement has been filed, the parties shall file a composite inventory and appraisement in a form substantially similar to the one available from the Coordinator of the 397th District Court.
2. The Petitioner shall initiate the composite inventory and forward it to the Respondent for completion not less than fourteen (14) days prior to trial or final hearing.
3. The Respondent shall complete and file the composite inventory with the Court and serve a copy of the same on the Petitioner not less than seven (7) days prior to trial or final hearing.