2025/001

STANDING ORDER – DETENTION HEARINGS

304th and 305th Juvenile Courts

Pursuant to Section 54.08 of the Texas Family Code, the 304th and 305th District Courts enter and adopt the following Order:

All Detention Hearings are Ordered closed to the public.

Per Texas Family Code Section 54.08, all hearings of a child under the age of 14 are presumptively closed. The Court further finds good cause to close Detention Hearings to the public for children 14 years of age and older.

Detention hearings are Probable Cause Hearings and Judicial Decisions made as to whether a child should be detained or released to the community. Detention hearings are not findings of Delinquent Conduct. Further, cases are not necessarily filed on all children that are the subject of a Detention hearing.

Additionally, information disclosed at a Detention Hearing could materially affect the testimony of potential witnesses at later occurring Adjudication or Disposition hearings.

ACCORDINGLY, it is **ORDERED** that the public is excluded from Detention Hearings conducted pursuant to 54.01 of the Texas Family Code.

Signed the 21st day of March, 2025

Judge, 304th District Court

Judge, 305th District Court

2025 / 005

304th and 305th District Courts

STANDING COURT ORDER
TRANSFER OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES INVOLVING SIBLING ACCOMPLICES AND ACCOMPLICES IN CASES RESULTING IN DEATH TO AN INDIVIDUAL

WHEREAS, the Juvenile Courts recognize the need to promote judicial efficiency, ensure consistency in rulings, and reduce the emotional and logistical burden placed upon families and victims involved in juvenile delinquency proceedings;

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of justice, and for the convenience of families and victims, that related juvenile cases involving sibling accomplices (co-Respondents) or accomplices (co-Respondents) in allegations resulting in the death of an individual be heard in a unified manner;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. **Transfer of Sibling Accomplice Cases**:
   All juvenile delinquency cases in which the juvenile respondents are siblings and are alleged to be accomplices in the same incident or series of related incidents shall be heard in a single court.
2. **Transfer of Cases Involving a Deceased Individual**:
   All juvenile delinquency cases in which multiple juvenile respondents are alleged accomplices in an incident or series of incidents that resulted in the death of an individual shall be heard in a single court.
3. **Court of First Filing to Control**:
   In both categories described above, the court in which the first delinquency petition is filed shall exercise jurisdiction over all related cases. All subsequent related cases shall be transferred into that court.
4. **Transfer Procedure and Authority**:
   The judge presiding over the court of first filing shall have the authority to sign all necessary orders for the transfer of cases to their respective Court. If appointed counsel is required, the receiving Court shall appoint counsel in accordance with that Court's appointment list as provided by the Indigent Defense Plan.
5. **District Attorney's Office**:
   Upon the filing of any juvenile delinquency petition involving alleged sibling accomplices or conduct involving accomplices resulting in the death of an individual, the Chief of the Juvenile Section of the District Attorneys or his/her designee, Office shall notify the Juvenile District Judges and shall ensure transfer of case(s) to the appropriate Court in accordance with this Order.
6. **Judicial Discretion**:
   Nothing in this Order shall prohibit a Juvenile District Court from declining to transfer cases upon a showing of good cause, provided that such decision to refrain from transfer continues to serve the interests of justice and the convenience of families and victims.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 12 day of August, 2025.

Judge, 304th District Court

Judge, 305th District Court