



La Joya Municipal Court STANDING ORDERS



La Joya Municipal Court
702 East Expressway 83
La Joya, Texas 78560-4051
956.581.7095

Issued June 11, 2024
By Presiding Judge
Lee R. Alaniz

**Standing Orders and
Related Procedures for
La Joya Municipal Court**

WHEREAS, As per [Chapter 29, Texas Government Code](#), “A municipal court is created in each municipality” with the stated statutory jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Section 4 of the La Joya Home Rule Charter establishes a Municipal Court of the City of La Joya, with “... jurisdiction within the territorial limits of the City for the trial of misdemeanor offenses with all powers and duties granted by the laws of the State of Texas”;

WHEREAS, Mayor Isidro Casanova appointed, with the advice and consent of the City Council, Lee R. Alaniz as the Court’s Presiding Judge; now therefore

IT IS ORDERED that the Court Clerk, staff, attorneys, parties, and all other individuals who interact with the Court follow the Standing Orders set forth herein. Any situations that arise outside of these orders will require direct review by the Presiding Judge; furthermore

IT IS ORDERED that these standing orders are to serve as guidelines. Any deviations from these orders must have specific prior approval by the Presiding Judge, and if it is not practicable to obtain prior approval from the Presiding Judge, any deviations must be reported for review and appropriate corrective actions. The Judge may submit orders to the Court Clerk and staff beyond the scope of these orders at any time, change these orders without notice, and make certain determinations on a case-by-case basis.

Signed and Ordered on this the 11th day of June 2024, CE.

La Joya Municipal Court



Lee R. Alaniz, Presiding Judge

**La Joya Municipal Court
Standing Order #1
Vision & Mission Statements
And Jurisdiction**

1. Vision Statement

THE VISION OF LA JOYA MUNICIPAL COURT IS TO HELP MAKE THE CITY OF LA JOYA A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, A GOOD PLACE TO WORK, A NICE PLACE TO VISIT, A FRIENDLY PLACE WHERE EVERYONE FEELS WELCOME, AND A PEACEFUL COMMUNITY WHERE EVERYONE RESPECTS OUR LAWS.

2. Mission Statement

THE MISSION OF LA JOYA MUNICIPAL COURT IS TO PROVIDE AN ACCESSIBLE LEGAL FORUM FOR INDIVIDUALS TO HAVE THEIR COURT MATTERS HEARD IN A FAIR AND EFFICIENT MANNER WHILE PROVIDING A HIGH LEVEL OF INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM, AND CUSTOMER SERVICE.

3. Jurisdiction

THE JURISDICTION OF LA JOYA MUNICIPAL COURT INCLUDES FINE ONLY OFFENSES, CLASS "C" MISDEMEANORS, AND CITY ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS THAT OCCUR WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS AND ON CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES IN THE EXTRA-TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OF THE CITY OF LA JOYA, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS.

**La Joya Municipal Court
Standing Order #2
Courtroom Decorum**

1. All counsel and any person appearing pro se in La Joya Municipal Court shall by entering an appearance acknowledge that he or she has read and is familiar with the La Joya Municipal Court's Standing Orders, the [Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct](#), and the [Texas Lawyers Creed](#).
2. Counsel, parties, witnesses under their control, and members of the public must exercise good taste and common sense in matters concerning dress, personal appearance, and civil behavior when appearing in court or when interacting with court personnel.
3. No shorts, tank tops, or halter tops. No clothing with offensive, vulgar, obscene, antisocial, or racist slogans or depictions. No clothing that is inappropriately provocative or revealing.
4. In the lobby, courtroom, or any common areas used by the Court:
 - a. Firearms or other weapons are prohibited ([Texas Penal Code, Chapter 46](#)).
 - b. No smoking, vaping, or use of any tobacco products.
 - c. No feet on tables, chairs, or fixtures.
5. Before entering the courtroom:
 - a. Food, drinks, and chewing gum must be disposed;
 - b. Hats and caps must be removed; and
 - c. Mobile phones and electronic devices must be silenced.
6. When inside the courtroom:
 - a. No use of mobile devices to make or take phone calls, unless approved by the Court.
 - b. No photography, audio capture/recording, video capture/recording, livestreaming, or any type of broadcasting, unless approved by the Court.
 - c. No offensive, loud, abusive, or provocative language unless the language is part and parcel of evidence offered in a good faith effort to administer justice.
 - d. All persons must follow the directions of the Bailiff.
7. When court is in session:
 - a. No talking or making noises of any kind unless participating in the matter then before the Court.
 - b. No person shall by any facial expression, nonverbal gesture, guttural utterances, or any other conduct exhibit approval or disapproval of any testimony elicited or any statement or transaction which has occurred in the courtroom.

**La Joya Municipal Court
Standing Order #3
Attorneys**

1. Letter of Representation

A letter of representation is required. Once submitted, the Attorney will be the Attorney of Record for the Defendant's case until such time as the case is finally disposed or the Attorney's written request to withdraw is granted by the Court.

If the Attorney has Standing Agreements with other attorneys to appear on behalf of the Defendant, the Attorney must provide the names of all such attorneys in the letter of representation.

2. Court Appearances

Upon receipt of the letter of representation, the Court Clerk shall schedule the case for an "Attorney Conference" docket.

The Attorney of Record or any attorney listed in the letter of representation may appear for a represented Defendant at an "Initial Appearance", "Attorney Conference", "Pre-Trial", or "Show Cause" Docket to discuss the case with the Prosecutor, enter a plea, or obtain a reset.

The Court may under certain circumstances require both the Defendant and the Attorney of Record to appear at a "Pre-Trial" hearing pursuant to [Article 28.01, Texas Code Criminal Procedure](#).

If the Prosecutor consents, attorneys are permitted to negotiate with the State using email, videoconferencing, or regular mail. A limited number of continuances will be granted to accommodate such negotiations as long as the case continues to progress to the Court's satisfaction.

3. Notice of Settings

Notice of the date, time, and nature of each setting shall be sent by regular mail or email to the address provided on the letter of representation. A courtesy notice will be sent via regular mail to the Defendant's address on record.

4. Requests for Continuance

A written motion for continuance is required. The motion must be submitted on or before the date of an "Initial Appearance" setting, "Attorney Conference" setting, "Pre-Trial" setting, or "Show Cause" setting and no less than ten (10) business days prior to any trial setting.

Faxed or emailed motions from attorneys will be accepted by the Clerk. Each request for reset will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Court.

