

Supreme Court of Texas

Misc. Docket No. 25-9047

Final Approval of Amendments to Texas Rule of Judicial Administration 7

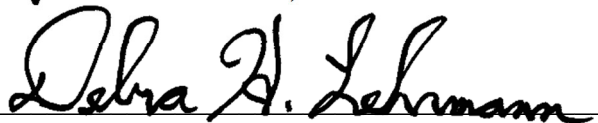
ORDERED that:

1. On January 31, 2025, in Misc. Dkt. No. 25-9006, the Court preliminarily approved amendments to Texas Rule of Judicial Administration 7 and invited public comment.
2. No comments were received, and no additional changes have been made to the amendments. This Order gives final approval to the amendments set forth in Misc. Dkt. No. 25-9006 and reproduced below, effective August 1, 2025.
3. The Clerk is directed to:
 - a. file a copy of this Order with the Secretary of State;
 - b. cause a copy of this Order to be mailed to each registered member of the State Bar of Texas by publication in the *Texas Bar Journal*;
 - c. send a copy of this Order to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and each elected member of the Legislature; and
 - d. submit a copy of this Order for publication in the *Texas Register*.

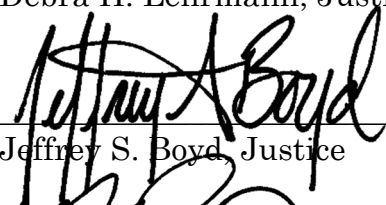
Date: July 25, 2025.



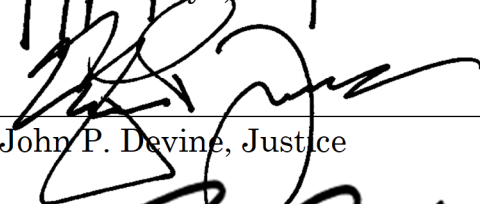
James D. Blacklock, Chief Justice



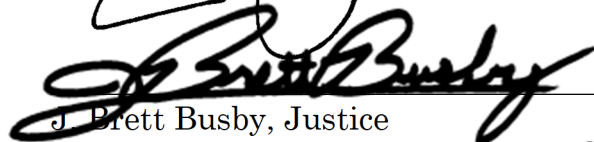
Debra H. Lehrmann, Justice



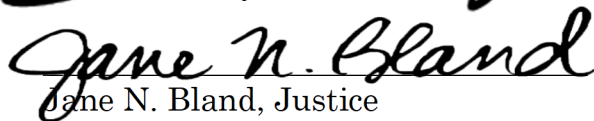
Jeffrey S. Boyd, Justice



John P. Devine, Justice



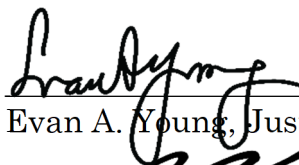
J. Brett Busby, Justice



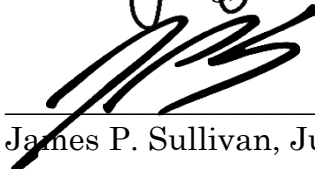
Jane N. Bland, Justice



Rebeca A. Huddle, Justice



Evan A. Young, Justice



James P. Sullivan, Justice

TEXAS RULES OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

Rule 7. Administrative Responsibilities.

Rule 7.1. All Courts.

(a) *Court Confidentiality Policy Required.* A court, including an appellate, district, statutory county, business, statutory probate, constitutional county, justice, and municipal court, must adopt a policy governing court confidentiality.

(b) *Policy Contents.* The policy must:

- (1) define who the policy applies to;
- (2) define confidential information;
- (3) impose a duty of confidentiality on all court staff that continues after employment at the court ends;
- (4) address when, if ever, the disclosure of confidential information is authorized;
- (5) provide the language of relevant laws, including section 21.013 of the Texas Government Code and section 39.06 of the Texas Penal Code;
- (6) address negligent or accidental disclosure of confidential information;
- (7) warn of potential penalties for the unauthorized disclosure of confidential information, including:
 - (A) referral to relevant law enforcement agencies for investigation and prosecution;
 - (B) termination of employment;
 - (C) for attorneys, referral to the State Bar of Texas for discipline;
 - (D) for law students, referral to the Texas Board of Law Examiners for consideration in determining eligibility to practice law in Texas; and

(8) require all court staff to acknowledge receipt of the policy in writing.

(c) *Distribution and Training Required.* The court must:

(1) for all new court staff members, provide the policy and train on it before the new staff member begins any substantive work for the court;

(2) provide the policy to all existing court staff at least ~~biannually~~once every other year.
