

State of Texas	§	Court Order
Collin County	§	2024-1116-10-14
Commissioners Court	§	

An order of the Collin County Commissioners Court adopting *Rules of Procedure, Conduct, and Decorum at Meetings of the Collin County Commissioners Court.*

All regular, special, emergency, and executive session meetings of the Collin County Commissioners Court (hereinafter, the “Court”) will be called and conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Government Code.

Regular, special, and emergency meetings of the Court are open to the public and to representatives of the press and media. Executive session meetings of the Court are not open to the public, the press, or the media and only those individuals expressly requested or ordered to be present are allowed to attend executive session meetings. Except as otherwise provided, the Court meets in regular session meetings on Monday afternoons at 1:30 p.m.

The business of Collin County is conducted by and between the members of the Court and by those members of the Collin County staff, elected officials, department heads, consultants, experts and/or members of the public requested to be present and participate. While the public is invited to attend all meetings of the Court (except executive session meetings), the public’s participation therein is limited to that of observers unless a member of the public is requested to address the Court on a particular issue or unless the member of the public completes a Public Comment Form and submits the form to the Collin County Clerk (or his/her designee) prior to the start of the meeting.

In accordance with Texas Government Code section 551.007 (c), each member of the public who appears before the Court shall be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes to make his/her remarks. Time for each speaker shall be maintained by the County Judge or such other designated representative of the Court. In matters of exceptional interest, the Court may, by the majority vote of the members of the Court in attendance at the meeting, either shorten or lengthen the time allocated for each member of the public.

It is the intention of the Court to provide an open forum for the citizens of Collin County to address the Court and express themselves on issues of county government. Members of the public are reminded that the Court is a constitutional court of record, with both judicial and legislative powers, created under Article V, Section 1 and Section 18 of the Texas Constitution. As a constitutional court, the Court also possesses the power to issue a contempt of court citation under Section 81.023 of the Texas Local Government Code. Accordingly, members of the public in attendance at any regular, special, or emergency meeting of the Court shall conduct themselves with proper respect for the Court and proper decorum in speaking to and/or addressing the Court; in

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participating in public discussions before the Court; and in all actions in the presence of the Court. No food, drink, or gum is allowed in the courtroom. Electronic devices must be silenced upon entering the courtroom. Standing is not allowed in the courtroom; please take a seat upon entering the courtroom. Proper attire for men, women and children is mandatory. Hats, tank tops, and revealing clothing are not acceptable. Those members of the public who are inappropriately attired and/or who do not conduct themselves in an orderly and appropriate manner will be ordered to leave the meeting. Individuals who refuse to conduct themselves with proper decorum and respect for the Court may be held in contempt of court. Additionally, continued disruption of the meeting may result in criminal charges in accordance with section 42.05 of the Texas Penal Code.

It is not the intention of the Court to provide a public forum for the demeaning of any individual or group. Neither is it the intention of the Court to allow a member of the public to insult the honesty and/or integrity of the Court, as a body, or any member or members of the Court, individually or collectively. Accordingly, abusive, indecent, profane, vulgar, or threatening language directed toward the Court and/or any person in the Court's presence and/or racial, ethnic, or gender slurs or epithets will not be tolerated. Members of the public who have been recognized to address the Court must direct their comments to the Court, and not to other members of the public in attendance at the meeting. Shouting at the Court will not be tolerated at any time. In accordance with Texas Government Code section 551.007 (e), these rules do not prohibit public criticism of the Court, as a body, or any member or members of the Court, including criticism of any act, omission, policy, procedure, program, or service. Violation of these rules may result in the following sanctions:

- Cancellation of a speaker's remaining time;
- Removal from the courtroom;
- A contempt citation;
- Punishment by a fine of not more than \$25 or by confinement for not more than 24 hours (Texas Local Government Code section 81.023); and/or
- Such other civil and/or criminal sanctions as may be authorized under the Constitution, Statutes and Codes of the State of Texas.

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The Collin County Judge is the presiding officer of the Court and is a fully participating member thereof. In the event of the absence of the County Judge at any regular, special, emergency, or executive session meeting, a member of the Commissioners Court present at the meeting shall serve as the judge pro-tem of the Court.

The County Judge (or the designated judge pro-tem of the Court), as presiding officer of the Court, is responsible for conducting all meetings, and members of the public who have properly completed a ***Public Comment Form*** and submitted the form to the County Clerk (or his/her designee) prior to the start of the meeting must wait to be recognized before they will be allowed to address the Court.

Special Rules for the Press and Media

- No media personnel or equipment, including lights, cameras, or microphones, will be located on the Court bench or closer than five feet (5') in front of the Court bench.
- Reporters, photographers, videographers, and media technicians are required to position their equipment in such a manner as to not disrupt the Court deliberations or the ability of the public to see, hear, and participate in the proceedings.
- Reporters, photographers, videographers, and media technicians must remain stationary during the meeting and may not move around the courtroom while the Court is in session.
- Interviews shall not be conducted inside the courtroom while the Court is in session. Media interviews which are conducted outside the courtroom must be conducted in such a manner that the interview does not disturb, impede, or disrupt the proceedings of any regular, special, emergency, or executive session meeting of the Court.

The Collin County Constable for Precinct 1 (or his/her deputy) shall serve as the bailiff at all regular, special, and emergency meetings of the Court. However, the Court may appoint such other commissioned peace officers to serve as bailiffs as may be necessary.

The Court may adopt such additional and supplemental rules for meetings as may be necessary and appropriate to conduct meetings in an orderly, efficient, and proper manner.

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These *Rules of Procedure, Conduct, and Decorum at Meetings of the Collin County Commissioners Court* shall be effective immediately upon adoption by the Court and shall remain in full force and effect until amended or repealed by a majority vote of the Commissioners Court.

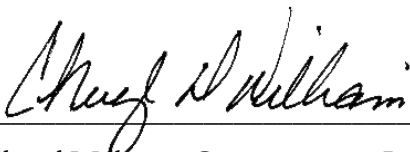
A motion was made, seconded, and carried by a majority of the court members in attendance during a regular session on Monday, October 14, 2024.



Chris Hill, County Judge



Susan Fletcher, Commissioner, Pct 1



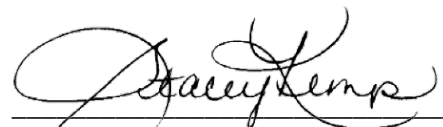
Cheryl Williams, Commissioner, Pct 2



Darrell Hale, Commissioner, Pct 3

Not Present

Duncan Webb, Commissioner, Pct 4



ATTEST: Stacey Kemp, County Clerk