

RULES OF COURT AND PROTOCOL CIRCUIT AND CHANCERY COURTS

31st Judicial District

Warren and Van Buren Counties

Larry B. Stanley, Jr., Judge

Effective September 1, 2002

RULE 1

APPLICABILITY AND SUSPENSION OF RULES

- **Former Rules Abrogated**

All former rules of local practice in the Circuit, Chancery, or Criminal Courts, except as readopted herein, are abrogated.

1.02 **Applicability**

Each rule is applicable in the Circuit, Chancery and Criminal Courts of the Thirty-First Judicial District unless otherwise indicated by a particular rule. Each rule is applicable in all types of cases unless otherwise indicated by a particular rule. When a rule's applicability is designated to apply to a particular type of case (e.g. civil cases or criminal cases) it is applicable to all cases of that type regardless of which Court is hearing the case.

1.03 **Suspension of Rules**

Whenever the Court determines that justice requires it, it may suspend any of these rules unless violative of T.R.C.P. or Tenn.R.Crim.P.

RULE 2

COURT SESSIONS

- **Time**

Regular sessions of court will open at 9:00 a.m. or at such other time as the court directs.

First appearances for Orders of Protection will be scheduled at 8:30 a.m. as set out in section 2.02 below.

Judges and attorneys shall be prompt at all sessions.

- **Schedules**

The Grand Jury for Warren County will meet on the first Friday of each month.

The Grand Jury for Van Buren County will meet every other month on the fourth Monday of that month, and will report to the Judge at the conclusion of their meeting.

The second and fourth Wednesdays are criminal non-jury days. Probation violations, motions for early release, and all other contested criminal motions will be heard on the second Wednesday of each month.

Arraignments, plea dates, and Title IV child support cases will be heard on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Every Friday is reserved for worker's compensation trials. Approximately three (3) cases will be set for trial each Friday.

The second and fourth Tuesdays are civil non-jury days. All civil matters will be heard on these days, including contested worker's compensation motions. The court will attempt to accommodate any attorney who has cases set in General Sessions Court at 1:00 p.m.

First appearances for Orders of Protection will be scheduled for the first, third, and fifth Fridays of each month. If the Order of Protection is contested, it will be set for hearing on the next available non-jury civil day.

Every fourth Monday will be civil and criminal non-jury day in Van Buren County.

Any uncontested matters may be brought before the Circuit Court for hearing at 8:30 a.m. any day that court is being held in Warren County. The attorney must notify the Judge's secretary and pick up the file from the Circuit Court Clerk or Clerk and Master as the case may be.

The Clerks of both Van Buren and Warren Counties shall immediately upon completion of the Criminal Arraignment Docket forward copies of same to the Attorney General, Public Defender, the county jail, this Court, and the probation officers. On the following arraignment day, the Attorney General shall have made himself familiar with the cases listed and be able to inform the Court of the status of each case when called out in court.

Attorneys filing suit, or any attorney practicing in the Thirty-First Judicial District (or their representatives), are expected to attend civil docket settings and be aware of trial dates. The clerks do not notify lawyers of trial dates.

RULE 3

JURIES

- Conduct of Lawyers and Litigants

Except during voir dire in open court, no attorney or litigant shall contact any member of any jury at any time regarding any case during the term of court that jury is in session. No attorney shall countenance his client so acting. The only circumstance under which a juror may be contacted during a term, either by an attorney or his client, shall be by leave of court upon written petition made.

- Excuse from Service

In order to insure that jury duty is not unfairly avoided by any eligible citizen, prospective jurors shall be excused from jury service only upon a showing of undue hardship or other statutory grounds. Clerks, Judges, and counsel should impress the importance of jury trials in our system of justice upon those seeking to be excused from jury service. At the same time, Clerks, Judges, and counsel should be aware of the sacrifices that jury service involves and attempt to make the experience of being a juror as pleasant and productive as possible. Lengthy delays before or during trial that require jurors to wait should be avoided if possible and explained by the Judge if the delay cannot be avoided.

RULE 4

CONDUCT OF COUNSEL

- Conduct of Counsel
- During trial, counsel shall not exhibit familiarity with witnesses, jurors, or opposing counsel, and the use of first names for adults shall be avoided. During opening statement or argument, no juror shall be addressed individually by name.
- Bench conferences should be requested by counsel only when absolutely necessary in aid of a trial. Counsel may never lean upon the bench nor appear to engage the court in conversation in a confidential manner.
- Counsel should refrain from interrupting the court or opposing counsel until the statement being made is fully completed, except when absolutely necessary to protect the client, and should respectfully await the completion of the Court's statement or opinion before undertaking to point out objectionable matters. When objection is made to a question asked, counsel should refrain from asking the witness another question until the court has had an opportunity to rule upon the objection. Objecting counsel shall state the legal grounds without argument or discussion except by leave of court.
- Attorneys shall stand while examining witnesses, or addressing the jury or the Court, unless excused by the Court.
- No person shall converse with any juror during his or her term of service about any matter of fact or law which may pertain to a case during the juror's period of service, except in open court or by express permission of the Court.

4.02 Withdrawal of Counsel

- No attorney will be allowed to withdraw except for good cause and by leave of court upon motion and hearing after notice to the party or by agreed order signed by the attorney and client and approved by the Court.
- Appointed counsel in a criminal case shall continue to represent the Defendant until relieved by order of the Criminal Court. Counsel shall represent the Defendant subsequent to final judgment in such matters that deal with any correction of the judgment and through the initial appellate review. Such appointment, however, shall not extend to post-conviction relief petitions, parole matters or matters unrelated to the case or cases upon which the appointment was made. When appointed counsel represents a Defendant in matters subsequent to final judgment, the Court may enter an order reappointing counsel so as to authorize the attorney to seek compensation pursuant to T.C.A. 40-14-201 et seq.

4.03 Setting Attorney Fees

Whenever it is necessary for the court to fix fees of attorneys, the attorney shall file a statement of time spent on the case, a suggestion of the amount of a proper fee, and any other information requested by the Court. This rule may not apply where fees are set or suggested by statute.

4.04 Contacting the Judge

Neither counsel nor a party to a pending action shall contact the Judge before whom a controverted matter is pending, unless there is an emergency, except:

- By letter, a copy of which is sent to all counsel of record, with a copy to the Clerk.
- Orally with other counsel present.
- By conference telephone call with all parties and/or counsel.

RULE 5

COURT FILES

All papers and records of the court shall be in the custody of the Clerk. Files may not be withdrawn by any person other than attorneys at any time except by leave of court. Any files withdrawn shall not be retained for more than five (5) days without leave of court. The person withdrawing the file shall be responsible for maintaining its contents and returning it to the Clerk. Copies of files shall be furnished by the Clerk at a reasonable cost. No criminal court file or evidence from a criminal court file may be withdrawn from the Clerk's custody without court approval.

RULE 6

FILING AND SERVICE OF PAPERS

- Certificate of Service

All papers must contain a certificate of service, which must contain the date of service and the name of the person or persons served. The Clerk shall refuse to file papers without a certificate which complies with these rules and all applicable rules of Civil, Criminal, or Appellate Procedure.

- Signature of Counsel

All pleadings, orders, briefs and other papers submitted for consideration by the court shall show the style and number of the case, the general nature of the paper filed, and the name, address and telephone number of the attorney filing the pleading, and the filing attorney's Tennessee Supreme Court Registration Number.

RULE 7

JURY DEMAND: CIVIL CASES

- Procedure

In any civil case in which a jury is demanded, the words "JURY DEMAND" shall be typewritten in capital letters on the first page of the pleadings opposite the style of the case above the space for the case number.

- Number of Jurors

In all civil cases, the parties may stipulate that the jury will consist of any number of persons less than twelve (12). Unless otherwise expressly demanded, a jury demand is a stipulation for a six (6) person jury. Failure to demand a twelve (12) person jury in the last T.R.C.P. Rule 7.01 pleading filed is a stipulation for a six (6) person jury.

- Challenges

The stipulation shall not affect the number of challenges nor the manner of making them.

- Jury Expenses/Court Costs

Jury expenses may be assessed as court costs and may be taxed to a party or parties in cases settled within forty-eight (48) hours of trial date. The forty-eight (48) hour rule shall exclude weekends.

RULE 8

DISCOVERY: CIVIL CASES

- Extension of Time for Responses to Discovery

As provided in Rule 29, T.R.C.P., stipulations extending the time for responding to interrogatories to parties, requests for production and requests for admissions shall not be made without approval of the Court. Court approval may be obtained by submitting an agreed order extending the time for response. Any party unable to respond to discovery within the time provided by T.R.C.P. and who cannot obtain the agreement of the other parties for an agreed order extending the time for responding, may move the Court for an extension of time for responding.

8.02 Interrogatories to Parties

- No party shall serve on any other party more than thirty single question interrogatories, including subparts, without leave of court. Any motion seeking permission to serve more than thirty (30) interrogatories shall set out the additional interrogatories the party wishes to serve. The motion will be accompanied by a memorandum giving reasons establishing good cause for the service of additional interrogatories. If a party is served with more than thirty (30) interrogatories without an order of the Court, he or she shall respond only to the first thirty (30) in the manner provided by T.R.C.P.
- An answering party shall type the interrogatory or request immediately preceding the answer or response.

8.03 Requests for Admissions

- Requests for admissions made pursuant to Rule 36, T.R.C.P. shall be so arranged so that after each separate request a blank space shall be provided reasonably calculated to enable the responding party to have his or her response typed in.
- If there is to be a response, the party to whom the requests are directed shall respond to each request in the space provided and serve a copy containing the original signature upon the requesting party and serve copies thereof on opposing counsel.

RULE 9

MOTIONS

9.01 Time for Filing Pre-Trial Motions

Pre-trial motions that may be dispositive of one or more issues in a case on the merits must be filed and set for hearing at least fifteen (15) days prior to the trial date in jury cases and five (5) days prior to the trial date in non-jury cases.

9.02 Briefs on Motions and Responses

Every motion that may require the resolution of an issue of law and every motion in which legal authority is relied upon shall be accompanied by a short memorandum of law and facts in support thereof. Responsive memoranda is required and shall be submitted and furnished to opposing counsel prior to the day of the hearing on the motion. If no responsive brief is filed, the court may dispose of the motion as unopposed. When motions are to be heard at chambers, copies of motions, briefs, and responses shall be sent to the Judge at the time filed.

Whenever a memorandum cites an unreported Tennessee decision or a decision from a court of another state, counsel shall attach to the memorandum a complete copy of the opinion; counsel shall also furnish a copy of any unreported decision to opposing counsel.

9.03 Failure to Appear at a Motion Hearing; Late Appearance

If any party does not appear at a scheduled hearing on a motion or any other matter scheduled to be heard on the motion docket, the Court may strike or adjudicate the motion. Counsel who will be late for a motion hearing shall notify the Clerk in advance of the hearing or have an announcement to that effect made at the call of the motion docket.

9.04 Filing of Pre-Trial Motions in Criminal Cases

Motions concerning issues which are known to counsel or should be discoverable shall be filed a minimum of seven (7) days prior to the last criminal non-jury day before the trial date, e.g. Motion to Suppress, Motion to Dismiss Indictment, etc.

RULE 10

USE AND DISTRIBUTION OF AUDIO/VISUAL RECORDINGS: CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES

10.01 Use of Audio/Visual Recordings

When a party intends to offer an audio and/or visual recording as evidence in any jury trial, counsel shall provide written notice to all adverse counsel at least twenty-one (21) days before trial. Adverse counsel shall be permitted to review the recording in the form in which it is intended to be offered at trial. Additionally, counsel, at his/her expenses, shall be allowed to copy said recording. Adverse counsel shall promptly advise the other attorney of each objection to the recording. The attorneys shall then attempt in good faith to resolve such matters among themselves. If the attorneys cannot resolve the objections, then they shall advise the trial court sufficiently before the trial in order that said objections may be ruled upon in time to allow editing of the recording. This rule applies in civil and criminal cases. By the way of example only, this rule applies in videotaped depositions, "Day In The Life" recordings, surveillance films and confessions, interviews, or statements. This does not apply to rebuttal or impeachment evidence and does not abrogate the requirements of Rule 12, Tenn.R.Crim.P.

10.02 Distribution of Audio/Visual Recordings

Any audio/visual recordings copied by the Attorney General and distributed to counsel for the Defendant shall not be disseminated to the Defendant or any other party.

RULE 11

NEGOTIATIONS AND SETTLEMENTS: CIVIL CASES

11.01 Award of Expenses

If any case is settled within forty-eight (48) hours of when it is to begin, the Court may award compensation to witnesses for lost income and/or travel expenses and tax the same as court costs.

11.02 Court Approval of Settlement

All joint petitions for the approval of workers' compensation, legitimation and minor's claims must be filed with the clerk before being presented to the Judge. In the event a minor or incompetent person is not represented by counsel, the Court may require that a Guardian ad Litem be appointed for the person if the Court is not satisfied with the proposed settlement. In that event, the fee of said Guardian ad Litem will be taxed as part of the costs.

11.02 Notice Immediately Upon Settlement

If a case is set for trial and the parties subsequently reach a settlement, the parties shall give immediate notice of the settlement to the clerk and Judge and shall promptly file an agreed order. Strict adherence to this requirement will allow the Court to better plan for the trial of other pending cases.

RULE 12

NEGOTIATIONS AND SETTLEMENTS: CRIMINAL CASES

12.01 Settlement Date; Settlement Deadline

At arraignment the Court will assign a court date for settlement of the case, which will be the deadline for acceptance of a negotiated disposition. The Court will also tentatively set the trial date at arraignment. At the settlement date, if the Defendant has not entered a negotiated plea and if the case has not been disposed of, the court will affirm the docketing of the trial date. Upon the docketing of the case for trial, no negotiated disposition will be accepted by the Court. The case may be resolved only by trial, dismissal with prejudice, State's motion for a nolle prosequi approved by the Court after a showing of good cause for the motion, or the Defendant's plea of guilty to the offense(s) charge in the indictment. If the Defendant enters a guilty plea to the indictment, the trial Judge will set the sentence. The only exception to this rule will be if new evidence is discovered after the settlement date has passed and such evidence could not have been discovered prior to the settlement date. Nothing in this rule shall prohibit the

Defendant's election to enter a plea of guilty to one or more counts of the same indictment. Likewise, counsel for the State may move to dismiss with prejudice one or more counts of the indictment while demanding trial on one or more counts.

12.02 Notice to Victims

In cases involving plea agreements pursuant to Rule 11, Tenn.R.Crim.P., the court shall not accept the plea unless the prosecuting attorney states on the record that he/she has, *prior* to the plea, communicated with the victim regarding the plea or made a good faith effort to communicate with the victim. This rule shall apply to pleas in cases where the defendant is indicted for the following offenses:

- murder or the attempt to commit murder;
- voluntary manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide, or the attempt to commit these crimes;
- vehicular homicide;
- aggravated assault;
- especially aggravated kidnapping, kidnapping, or the attempt to commit these crimes;
- all felonies described as Sexual Offenses under T.C.A. 39-13-501, et seq., or the attempt to commit these crimes;
- aggravated arson and arson or the attempt to commit these crimes;
- robbery, aggravated robbery, and especially aggravated robbery or the attempt to commit these crimes;
- especially aggravated burglary or aggravated burglary or the attempt to commit these crimes; and
- any other felonies;
- all other crimes involving individual victims where the Judge deems it appropriate that prior communication be made to the victim.

12.03 Applications for Pre-Trial Diversion

Any application for pre-trial diversion shall be sent to the District Attorney no later than thirty (30) days prior to the Defendant's initial plea/trial confirmation date. The District Attorney shall file an acceptance or denial of the application for pre-trial diversion on or before the Defendant's plea/trial confirmation date.

RULE 13

COURT REPORTERS: CIVIL CASES

It is the responsibility of litigants to arrange for court reporters in civil cases. Proceedings will not be postponed or delayed because of a court reporter's absence or tardiness.

RULE 14

GENERAL SESSIONS APPEALS IN CIRCUIT COURT

- It shall be the duty of the parties and/or their attorneys to determine whether a General Sessions Court case has been appealed to Circuit Court.
- The signature of an attorney or party to an appeal from General Sessions Court shall constitute a certificate under Rule 11, T.R.C.P.

RULE 15

CONTINUANCES: CIVIL CASES

15.01 Continuances

- Cases in which a jury is demanded may not be continued by agreement and may be continued only by leave of court. Cases will not be continued except for good cause, which shall be brought to the attention of the Court as soon as practicable before the date of the trial.
- Absence of a witness will not be considered by the Court as a ground for a continuance unless the witness has been subpoenaed in accordance with the requirements of these rules and T.R.C.P.
- When a case has been set, failure to have completed discovery, inability to take a deposition, or failure to have completed any other trial preparation will not be grounds for a continuance. The Court should be timely notified of problems in scheduling depositions or other preparation (such as refusal of a deponent to promptly schedule a deposition) and the Court may take such action to ensure that depositions are given in a timely fashion so as to ensure that parties are ready for trial on the scheduled trial date.

15.02 Award of Fees and Expenses

In cases continued, the Court may award expenses and attorney fees, including compensation to witnesses for lost income and/or travel expenses and tax the same as court costs.

RULE 16

CONTINUANCES: CRIMINAL CASES

- Cases may not be continued by agreement and may be continued only by leave of court. After a case has been set for trial it will not be continued except for good cause, which shall be brought to the attention of the Court as soon as practicable before the date of the trial.
- Absence of a witness will not be considered by the Court as a ground for a continuance unless the witness has been subpoenaed in accordance with the requirements of these rules and Tenn.R.Crim.P.
- If a case is continued, a new trial date will be assigned at the time of the continuance.

RULE 17

SUBPOENAS

17.01 Time for Issuing Subpoenas

- **Non-Jury Cases:** Subpoenas for a local witness must be issued and dated by the clerk no later than seven (7) days before the date of the trial. If the witness is out of county, the subpoena must be issued by the clerk and mailed or otherwise transmitted to the out of county Sheriff or other authorized person no later than ten (10) days before the date on which the case is set for trial.
- **Jury Cases:** Subpoenas for a local witness must be issued and dated by the clerk no later than ten (10) days before the trial and fifteen (15) days for out of county witnesses. If an attorney is aware that any witness, such as a state toxicologist, requires more notice than set out above to ensure that a prior served subpoena will not take precedence, a subpoena must be issued within five (5) days of the date of first notice of the setting of the case.

17.02 Responsibility of Counsel

Counsel of record shall be responsible for ensuring the subpoenas are issued in accordance with this rule and the applicable rules of Civil and Criminal Procedure. Nothing in Rule 18 prohibits counsel from preparing subpoenas.

RULE 18

PRE-TRIAL PROCEDURE

18.01 Pre-Trial Conference

At least seventy-two (72) hours (excluding weekends and holidays) prior to the trial of a civil case, opposing counsel shall either meet face-to-face or shall hold a telephone conference for the following purposes:

- to exchange names of witnesses, other than impeachment or rebuttal witnesses;

- to make available for viewing and to discuss proposed exhibits, other than impeachment or rebuttal exhibits. In the event that the parties hold a telephone conference rather than a face-to-face meeting, the exhibits shall be made available for viewing before the conference.
- Trial proceedings will not be delayed to allow counsel to view or copy exhibits.

18.02 Medical or Expert Depositions

A copy of all medical or expert depositions relied upon by any party as proof in any case shall be mailed or delivered to the Judge's office at least seven (7) days prior to the hearing date. Objections to any and all depositions to be introduced at trial shall be filed and served on opposing counsel forty-eight (48) hours before trial. Rulings on these objections will be made prior to the beginning of the trial.

18.03 Trial Questionnaire

Attorneys who have a workers' compensation trial set shall file the trial questionnaire as provided by the Clerk of the court, and attached as Appendix A to these rules.

18.04 Street Clothes for Criminal Defendants

If a criminal client is incarcerated and wishes to wear street clothes during his/her trial, clothes shall be made available to the Defendant at the jail the day before the case is set for trial.

RULE 19

EXHIBITS

19.01 Custody of the Clerk

All trial exhibits shall be accounted for and placed in the custody of the clerk unless otherwise directed by the Court. Additionally, all proposed trial exhibits shall be submitted by the attorneys to the court reporter before trial. The reporter shall place thereupon, prior to the opening of court, only pre-marked, gummed labels. Each label shall contain at least the style of the case, the date, and a blank space for the exhibit number to be assigned by the Court.

19.02 Disposition of Exhibits in Civil Cases

After final determination of any civil case, the parties shall have thirty days to withdraw exhibits. The clerk may destroy or dispose of exhibits not so withdrawn.

RULE 20

REQUESTS FOR SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS AND SPECIAL VERDICTS

20.01 Requests for Special Instructions

When counsel submits special requests pursuant to Rule 51, T.R.C.P., or Rule 30 Tenn.R.Crim.P., copies shall be furnished to adversary counsel. When a request for an instruction is made and the request is for a Tennessee Pattern Jury Instruction verbatim, the request shall be made by reference to "TPI (Civil) No: _____" or TPI (Crim.) No. _____". If the request is for a modification of an existing instruction, the request shall identify the instruction to be modified by number and identify the deletion or addition. When a request for an instruction is made and there is no instruction on the subject in the Tennessee Pattern Jury Instructions, this fact must be stated in the request. Any request which seeks to alter or modify a Tennessee Pattern Jury Instruction shall cite authority relied on and be accompanied by a complete copy of such authority.

20.02 Special Verdicts in Civil Cases

Requests for special verdicts or written interrogatories made pursuant to Rule 49, T.R.C.P. must be made before commencement of the trial and must be accompanied by proposed verdict forms, proposed written interrogatories and proposed instructions, which will be given to the jury along with the special verdict forms or interrogatories. The Court shall inform counsel of its proposed action on the requests prior to their arguments to the jury.

20.03 Jury Instructions

The Attorney General's office will prepare the jury instructions in all criminal cases. Any specific jury instructions requested by either party will be submitted to the Court and opposing counsel at close of proof.

RULE 21

DIVORCES: SPECIAL PROCEDURES

21.01 Pendente Lite Hearings

At least two (2) business days prior to a scheduled pendente lite hearing, each party shall file a complete "Statement in Compliance with Rule 21.01" in the form as set forth as Appendix B to these rules. The statements must be signed by the litigants and properly notarized.

21.02 Contested Divorces and Custody: Order of Proof

In contested divorce cases, the Court will hear the parties to the action before hearing other witnesses unless, for good cause appearing, the Court finds it desirable to proceed otherwise.

21.03 Restraining Orders and Temporary Injunctions

- In domestic relations cases, all restraining orders or temporary injunctions obtained without notice to the adverse party and hearing shall provide for the setting of a hearing thereon within seven (7) days, unless the Court is unable to hear said matter within said time, in which event the Court or clerk may direct that the hearing be set at a later date. In any event, the same shall be

set as soon after the seven (7) days as may be practical and the date of the hearing shall be stated in said notice.

- No restraining order or temporary injunction shall be issued in a domestic relations case without notice and hearing, unless the verified complaint or petition or accompanying affidavit clearly shows that the applicant's rights have been violated or that there is a substantial likelihood that the same will be violated by the adverse party and that the applicant will suffer immediate and irreparable injury, loss, or damage before notice can be given and a hearing had.
- Except in cases prosecuted in forma pauperis, the Court may require the applicant to make bond before a restraining order or temporary injunction is issued.
- If the Judge of the court in which the action is pending or is to be filed is disqualified, disabled, or absent from the county, such fiat, restraining order, or temporary injunction may be granted by any Judge have statutory power to enjoin or restrain.

21.04 Divorce by Affidavit

If parties to a divorce by irreconcilable differences have no minor children, they may waive their appearances in open court, but must submit affidavits in accordance with Appendix C to these rules to be filed along with the Marital Dissolution Agreement and the Final Decree of Divorce, and then presented to the Judge for disposition.

RULE 22

EXTRAORDINARY INTERLOCUTORY RELIEF: CIVIL CASES

Proposed restraining orders shall be prepared by counsel prior to submitting the request for relief to the court. All restraining orders shall provide for the setting of a hearing for the temporary injunction and shall provide a place thereon for the court to set a date, time and location for such a hearing. The proposed restraining order shall also provide a place for the setting of the amount of the bond.

RULE 23

REFERENCES TO MASTER: CHANCERY AND CIRCUIT COURTS

23.01 Meeting

Within twenty (20) days following the entry of the order of reference, the Master will arrange a meeting with counsel for all parties in order to determine the procedure on the reference.

23.02 Statements of Claim and Responses

The parties shall file itemized statements of claim and responses to statements of claim as directed by the Master.

23.03 Recording of the Proceedings

The parties are responsible for compiling a record of the proof presented. The Master is not required to file a transcript of the proof with the Master's report.

23.04 Objections

Any objection to the Master's report, which is based upon a factual question, must be supported by a transcript of the proof presented to the Master. Objections shall be heard on the motion docket.

RULE 24

ORDERS

24.01 Civil

- All orders, jury verdicts, decrees, and judgments by the Court pronounced orally, or in the form of a written opinion, shall be reduced in writing by counsel of record for the prevailing party, or by such counsel as may be designated by the Judge. All such orders, verdicts, decrees and judgments shall be submitted to opposing counsel within five (5) days.
- All orders, decrees and judgments (except orders issued pursuant to T.R.C.P. 65.03, shall contain appropriate places for approval by counsel for all parties and shall bear the signature of such counsel when handed in for entry. If a party affected by the order has no counsel of record, this shall be made to appear. If opposing counsel are unable to agree upon the wording of an order, it shall be the duty of all such counsel to bring the matter to the attention of the Court within ten (10) days after such decision is announced.

24.02 Notice of Appeal

Upon filing notice of appeal in any case, it is the responsibility of the appellant attorney to notify the Clerk and court reporter of the date such notice is filed.

24.03 Criminal – Credit Time

The attorney of record (appointed or retained) in all criminal cases is responsible for obtaining from the Sheriff's Office the correct number of days with which the Defendant is to be credited while awaiting trial. The correct figure must be placed by the attorney in the Sentencing Order at the proper place by the time the attorney approves said order.

RULE 25

ADOPTIONS

All adoptions shall be filed in Chancery Court, as well as surrenders of parental rights, as the Clerk & Master's office has a special locked docket book, locked filing cabinet, and a locked minute book to comply with the privacy portions of the current adoption law.

RULE 26

BONDSMEN

The following rules shall be adhered to by all persons or firms granted permission to make professional criminal bonds in the Thirty-First Judicial District of Tennessee, Warren and Van Buren Counties:

- Bondsmen shall have the secured party timely in court on the appropriate arraignment date.
- Bondsmen shall not solicit business on any jail, workhouse, or county property.
- Bondsmen shall not place advertising signs on jail, workhouse, or county property.
- Bondsmen acting in a professional capacity shall not frequent any jail or workhouse, nor be seen to remain there for any protracted time unless their presence is for transacting business.
- Bondsmen shall make every effort to remain on an individual's bond the full time for which they are contracted. If for good cause it becomes necessary to attempt a release of that obligation, a surrender of the person secured shall be made to this Court. Other than herein stated, this Court is not responsible for financial problems arising between the bondmen and the secured party.
- Bondsmen are admonished not to seek an opinion or legal advice from this Court.

An approved bondman holds a unique and not always sympathetic position on the fringe of the Judicial System. He must not be perceived as soliciting business on county property. He must uphold the law and he shall not take financial advantage of the less fortunate individual with whom he contracts.

All bondsmen shall have equal opportunity to transact business within this Judicial District and it should not appear that any State or County official (this Court included) recommends or favors one approved bondsmen over another.

RULE 27

PROTOCOL

27.01 Lawyers in court must wear coat and tie and otherwise conduct themselves in keeping with the dignity of a courtroom.

27.02 Lawyers must stand to make objections to evidence and to address the Court.

27.03 Lawyers, when possible, should advise their clients to dress neatly for any court appearance. Inappropriately fitted blue jeans, tank tops, shorts, and other such dress will not be tolerated.

27.04 All lawyers of record, or those filing suit, shall familiarize themselves with local court rules. The Court will assume at all times that attorneys practicing before this bar know the local rules.

27.05 Attorneys not in a trial at the bar shall retire with their clients from the courtroom to designated areas for any form of consultation or for signing orders.

27.06 Attorneys, when subpoenaing witnesses, shall print the witnesses' full names (when available), full address, and the telephone numbers with any pertinent information.

27.07 Once an attorney has announced he is counsel of record for any individual he shall not be entitled to withdraw from the case, except upon extraordinary circumstances shown to the Court.