

### RULE 3a. LOCAL RULES AND STANDING ORDERS

(a) General Rule. Each administrative judicial region, district court, county court, county court at law, and probate court, may make and amend local rules and standing orders governing practice before such courts; ~~provided:~~

(b) Relationship with Other Authorities. Local rules and standing orders

~~(1) that any proposed rule or amendment shall~~ must not be inconsistent with ~~these~~ any provisions of the federal of Texas constitution, Texas statutes, statewide rules in Texas, or ~~with any~~ rule of the administrative judicial region in which the court is located; This requirement extends to any

~~(2) no time period provided by these rules may be altered by local rules;~~ a constitutional provision, statute, statewide rule, or rule of the administrative judicial region.

~~(3) any proposed local rule or amendment shall not become effective until it is submitted and approved by the Supreme Court of Texas;~~

~~(4) any proposed local rule or amendment shall not become effective until at least thirty days after its publication in a manner reasonably calculated to bring it to the attention of attorneys practicing before the court or courts for which it is made;~~

~~(5) all local rules or amendments adopted and approved in accordance herewith are made available upon request to members of the bar;~~

~~(6) no local rule, order, or practice of any court, other than local rules and amendments which fully comply with all requirements of this Rule 3a, shall ever be applied to determine the merits of any matter.~~

(c) Publication Requirement. Local rules and standing orders must be published on the Office of Court Administration's website. Local rules and standing orders cannot be enforced unless they are published on the website.

## Notes and Comments

Comment to 1990 change: To make Texas Rules of Civil Procedure timetables mandatory and to preclude use of unpublished local rules or other "standing" orders to local practices to determine issues of substantive merit.

Comment to 2022 change: Rule 3a is amended to remove the requirement that the Supreme Court approve local rules and to address standing orders. Amended Rule 3a provides that local rules and standing orders must not conflict with other laws and rules and cannot be enforced unless published on the Office of Court Administration's website. Section 74.093(b) of the Texas Government Code imposes additional requirements for local rules.