

# County Court at Law

## Polk County, Texas

Honorable Tom Brown  
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To all attorneys practicing in the County Court at Law of Polk County:

I have always believed that each litigant is entitled to fully present his or her case, consistent with the rules of procedure and evidence, in open court. Until now, I have avoided taking the below described action but I feel that we have reached the point where changes are necessary. The growth of the caseload of this court, and the increasing contentiousness of the cases, have created an unacceptable delay in settings cases.

Effective immediately, all contested issues, excluding criminal actions, are ordered to mediation before being set for hearing. The application of this mandatory mediation to hearings for temporary orders or temporary injunctions will be handled on a case by case basis depending on the circumstances of that particular case.

As always, agreements and defaults may be presented either by submission through efilings if everyone signs the agreement, or proved up in open court.

I am not happy that I have to operate your court this way, but we are receiving increasingly more setting requests. We simply cannot accommodate this load.

I appreciate your understanding.



Tom Brown  
Judge Presiding