

IN RE: STANDING ORDER

IN THE DISTRICT COURTS OF

NO. 002-05

JEFFERSON COUNTY, TEXAS

**STANDING ORDER PROHIBITING JOINDER OF MULTIPLE
UNRELATED PLAINTIFFS AND REQUIRING FILING FEE IN
SEVERED CASES**

The above District Courts, acting sua sponte, hereby order, effective immediately, that the District Clerk shall not accept for filing in these courts, and a party may not file in these courts, a pleading seeking relief for more than one unrelated plaintiff, counter-plaintiff, intervener, or party seeking affirmative relief. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, but by way of explanation, each person bringing a lawsuit shall do so in a separate action, and henceforth there shall be no actions filed in which multiple unrelated plaintiffs or claimants sue together in the same action. As to each such separate action filed on behalf of each such individual claimant, there shall be a full filing fee charged by the District Clerk.

In actions filed in contravention hereof in the future, in which there are multiple unrelated claimants, the actions shall be severed into separate causes with separately identifiable cause numbers on the courts' dockets, and at the time of such severance, the claimant party shall pay a full filing fee as if filing a new action. The District Clerk is hereby ordered to advise the courts of any attempts to contravene this order.

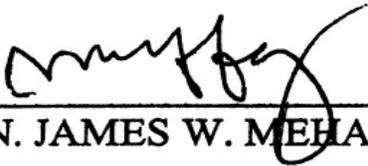
The term "unrelated" herein means parties who are not related by blood or affinity, or who do not allege a ground of liability based solely on a single identifiable event on a single day. Thus, for example, members of the same family, and biologically unrelated people involved in the same accident, may bring claims in a single suit, but two or more asbestos or silicosis claimants may not.

Nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit or discourage later consolidation for discovery, for trial, or for both, all in accordance with the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure. The intent hereby is to prohibit "mass" filing of cases with multiple plaintiffs, thereby 1) depriving the District Clerk of filing fee revenue, 2) creating an unrealistically small statistical base for case management and Office of Court Administration consideration, and 3) creating administrative and docket management problems for the court in managing numerous cases for

trial in a single cause. It is further the intent hereof to prohibit the intervention of new claims into an existing cause, thus 1) thwarting the random selection process of court assignment at the District Clerk's office and 2) creating the appearance of forum shopping.

The courts find that this action is made necessary by actual events and circumstances, of which the courts hereby take judicial notice. This action is taken pursuant to the courts' plenary power to control and manage their dockets and to administer their resources effectively and efficiently.

SIGNED this 1st day of April, 2005.



HON. JAMES W. MEHAFFY



HON. GARY SANDERSON



HON. MILTON GUNN SHUFFIELD



HON. DONALD J. FLOYD

FILED
at 4:30 o'clock P M

APR 01 2005

LOLITA RAMOS
CLERK, DISTRICT COURT OF JEFFERSON CO., TEXAS
BY J. Moreau DEPUTY