

IN THE 38TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
IN ALL FELONY CRIMINAL CASES

STANDING ORDER
UVALDE COUNTY, TEXAS

The Court may hold trials and hearings in either the District Courtroom of the Uvalde County Courthouse or the Justice Center Courtroom located at 339 King Fisher Lane, Uvalde, Texas. The parties will be provided advance notice of location.

The decision will be based on a number of factors. The District Courtroom is larger and has a maximum capacity of 180 people. The Justice Center Courtroom has a maximum capacity of 87. Our standard jury pool is in excess of 100. Therefore, most juries will be chosen at the District Courtroom of the Uvalde County Courthouse.

For reasons of courtroom acoustics, separation of jury/defendant/judge, access to jury room and security, the Court generally prefers, once the jury is seated, to hold felony jury trials at the Justice Center Courtroom.

While beautiful, the ability to hear testimony in the District Courtroom is limited. Uvalde County has done its best to accentuate the acoustics with an audio system but it is still very difficult to hear testimony at times. Less formal hearings are often heard at the bench due to the acoustical issues. It is imperative in any jury trial that the record be accurate. The acoustical issues are not present at the Justice Center Courtroom.

Further, in the Uvalde County Courthouse, there are no bathroom facilities that are separate for the defendant, defense counsel, prosecutors, juries or judge. The bailiff must secure the restroom facilities before the defendant is allowed to go in. At least two bailiffs are required to accompany the jury during restroom breaks as the men's room is located on the second floor and the women's room is on the first floor, which creates limitations for the jurors and bailiffs.

And finally, in the County Courthouse, the jury room is on the 3rd floor, which requires that the jury leave the courtroom, go into the general public space and up one flight of stairs to the jury room. A minimum of two bailiffs must accompany the jury to/from the jury room as some will take the elevator and some prefer the stairs. The entire jury cannot ride the elevator at one time. At the Justice Center Courtroom, the jury room is immediately outside the courtroom and is not accessible by the public or the defendant.

For these reasons, the Court generally prefers, subject to scheduling, to hold felony jury trials at the Justice Center Courtroom.

DATED: September 20, 2025



Kelley T. Kimble, District Judge