



## Immigration Judge Standing Orders FOIA Response from EOIR

In March of 2019, the American Immigration Council filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) [request](#) with the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) seeking all written immigration judge standing orders currently in force at immigration courts and immigration adjudication centers nationwide. In response, EOIR produced orders from five immigration courts.

The orders and brief descriptions are listed in the chart below by immigration court and/or judge. At present, immigration standing orders are not posted on EOIR's website and it is unclear how orders are communicated to the public, and in particular, to individuals who appear before the courts *pro se*.

The Council is aware of other standing orders that EOIR did not produce in response to this FOIA and has included and noted two of those below. We continue to press for additional standing orders that were not produced, as well as for policies governing the creation of standing orders and how standing orders are communicated to the public. If you are aware of immigration judge standing orders that are not included in the chart below, please consider sharing them with the Council at [clearinghouse@immcouncil.org](mailto:clearinghouse@immcouncil.org).

### Immigration Courts/Judges with Standing Orders

CONNECTICUT			
Court	Immigration Judges	Description	Download
Hartford	All	The Hartford Immigration Court responded that no judges have written standing orders.	

MASSACHUSETTS			
Court	Immigration Judges	Description	Download
Boston	All	The Boston Immigration Court responded that no judges have written standing orders.	

MICHIGAN			
Court	Immigration Judges	Description	Download
Detroit	All	The Detroit immigration Court indicated that Detroit immigration judges have a standing order barring children under a certain age from appearing in designated courtrooms unless they are in proceedings.	

TEXAS			
Court	Immigration Judges	Description	Download
Dallas	All	The Dallas Immigration Court produced a written standing order governing the filing of applications for relief from removal and supporting evidence with that court.	
El Paso Service Process Center (SPC)	William L. Abbott	<p>Immigration Judge Abbot has five standing orders governing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Section 212(c) waivers</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Non-LPR cancellation of removal</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">LPR cancellation of removal</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Asylum/withholding of removal/CAT</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Adjustment of status with a 212(h) waiver</a></li> </ul> <p>The Council obtained two additional standing orders for Judge Abbot via local practitioners governing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Bond hearings</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Prohibition of telephonic appearances as of July 1, 2007 (absent exceptional circumstances or for bond hearings where evidence is contested)</a></li> </ul>	

**TEXAS**

Court	Immigration Judges	Description	Download
El Paso Service Process Center (SPC)	Michael S. Pleters	<p>Judge Pleters has three standing orders governing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Bond hearings</a> (available in both English and Spanish. The order also references a "<a href="#">Bond Exhibits Summary</a>" to be completed by the Department of Homeland Security in advance of a bond hearing. The form was not released through the FOIA request, but the Council obtained a copy of it via local practitioners)</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Non-LPR cancellation of removal</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Asylum/withholding of removal/CAT</a></li> </ul>	
El Paso Service Process Center (SPC)	Dean S. Tuckman	<p>Judge Tuckman has three standing orders governing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Bond hearings</a> (available in both English and Spanish. The order also references a "<a href="#">Bond Exhibits Summary</a>" to be completed by the Department of Homeland Security in advance of a bond hearing. The form was not released through the FOIA request, but the Council obtained a copy of it via local practitioners)</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Telephonic appearances</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Asylum/withholding of removal/CAT</a></li> </ul>	

**WASHINGTON**

Court	Immigration Judges	Description	Download
Tacoma	All	<p>The Tacoma Immigration Court produced a standing order titled "<a href="#">Pre-Hearing Statement Order</a>" governing procedures and substantive requirements for filings in that court.</p>	
Seattle	Robert McSeveney	<p>Judge McSeveney has a standing order titled, "<a href="#">Record of Master Calendar Pre-Trial Appearance &amp; Order</a>," outlining various procedural and substantive requirements for hearings.</p>	