

Statement from Judge Nancy Berger, Judge of the 322nd District Court of Tarrant County, Texas

My heartfelt condolences go out to the Painter family for the loss of their loved ones that they have recently experienced. It is very unfortunate and painful that the breakup of families can be further destroyed in such a senseless manner.

It has come to my attention that statements and videos published during the past two days have implied that the judges of this court had ignored pleas to the court from Amanda Painter regarding her husband's mental health. The court's file is clear that no court hearings were held in this divorce.

Amanda and Justin Painter waived contested divorce hearings in both the Associate Judge's court as well as in the District Court. The parties and attorney drafted and signed their own temporary orders and mutual injunctions which were then approved and signed by the Associate Judge.

The parties chose to amicably settle and finalize their divorce dispute through a Mediated Settlement Agreement with an attorney/mediator. The parties, in their Mediated Settlement Agreement, denied any family violence and mental health issues. The only thing the judge was allowed to do under Texas law and her oath was to enter the agreed, binding Decree based on the Mediated Settlement Agreement.