

COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SEVENTH DISTRICT OF TEXAS AT
AMARILLO

Jacob Aaron Vera v. The State of Texas

Vera · No. Nos. 07-25-00278-CR and 07-25-00281-CR · Decided January 28, 2026

SUMMARY

The Seventh Court of Appeals of Texas abates Jacob Aaron Vera’s appeals because the reporter’s record was overdue and had not been filed. The court remands the causes to the trial court to determine the status of the record, the reasons for delay, the time required for completion, and whether a substitute reporter is necessary.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Court of Appeals for the Seventh District of Texas at Amarillo
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Per Curiam; Parker, C.J.; Doss, J.; Yarbrough, J.
JURISDICTION	Court of Appeals for the Seventh District of Texas at Amarillo
DECIDED	January 28, 2026
DOCKET	Nos. 07-25-00278-CR and 07-25-00281-CR
DISPOSITION	remanded
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Vera appealed judgments adjudicating him guilty of aggravated sexual assault of a child and sentencing him to consecutive forty-year confinement terms. Because the reporter's record was overdue and had not been filed, the court abated the appeals and remanded the causes to the trial court for proceedings to ensure completion and filing of the record.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Jacob Aaron Vera v. The State of Texas

TOPICS

- appellate procedure
- criminal procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- criminal appellate procedure
- criminal procedure
- appellate record administration

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. What action should the appellate court take when the reporter's record has not been timely filed and the reporter has not communicated regarding the delay?
2. What findings and corrective measures must the trial court undertake to facilitate completion and filing of the reporter's record?

HOLDINGS

1. When the reporter's record is not timely filed, the appellate court may abate the appeal and remand the cause for proceedings necessary to determine the status of the record, address the reasons for delay, and preserve the parties' appellate rights.
2. On remand, the trial court must determine what tasks remain to complete the reporter's record, why those tasks have not been completed, the reasonably necessary completion time, and whether the reporter can complete the work within that time; if completion, certification, and filing will require more than thirty days, the trial court must arrange for a substitute reporter.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The trial and appellate courts are jointly responsible for ensuring that the appellate record is timely filed.”

“make whatever order is appropriate to avoid further delay and to preserve the parties’ rights”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Vera was adjudicated guilty of aggravated sexual assault of a child and received consecutive forty-year terms of confinement. The reporter's record in his appeals was not filed by the December 23, 2025 deadline, and the reporter did not respond to the appellate court's December 30 notice directing her to report the record's status.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The 100th District Court of Hall County adjudicated Vera guilty in trial court cause numbers 4144 and 4145 and imposed consecutive forty-year sentences. The reporter's record was due December 23, 2025, but had not been filed by the date of the appellate order. After notifying the reporter and receiving no further communication, the court of appeals abated the appeals and remanded them for factual findings and corrective action concerning the delayed record.

DISPOSITION

remanded

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The trial court must determine (1) what tasks remain to complete the reporter's record; (2) why the reporter has not completed those tasks; (3) the amount of time reasonably necessary to complete them; and (4) whether the reporter can complete them within that time. If the trial court determines that the reporter will require more than

thirty days to complete, certify, and file the reporter's record, it must arrange for a substitute reporter. The trial court must enter necessary orders, include its findings in a supplemental clerk's record, and cause that record to be filed with the appellate court by February 27, 2026. If the reporter files the record by February 11, 2026, she must immediately notify the trial court in writing, and the trial court need take no further action.

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

In The Court of Appeals Seventh District of Texas at Amarillo No. 07-25-00278-CR No. 07-25-00281-CR JACOB AARON VERA, APPELLANT V. THE STATE OF TEXAS, APPELLEE On Appeal from the 100th District Court Hall County, Texas Trial Court Nos. 4144 & 4145, Honorable Stuart Messer, Presiding January 28, 2026 ORDER OF ABATEMENT AND REMAND Before PARKER, C.J., and DOSS and YARBROUGH, JJ. Appellant, Jacob Aaron Vera, appeals from the trial court's judgments adjudicating him guilty of aggravated sexual assault of a child¹ and sentencing him to consecutive terms of forty years of confinement.

The appellate record was originally due December 23, 2025, but the reporter's record has not yet been filed. By letter of December 30, 2025, we notified the reporter that the record was overdue and directed her to advise this Court 1 See TEX. PENAL CODE § 22.021. of the status of the record by January 9, 2026.

To date, the reporter has not filed the record or had any further communication with this Court. Accordingly, we abate the appeals and remand the causes to the trial court for further proceedings. See TEX. R. APP. P. 35.3(c) ("The trial and appellate courts are jointly responsible for ensuring that the appellate record is timely filed."); 37.3(a)(2) (requiring appellate courts to "make whatever order is appropriate to avoid further delay and to preserve the parties' rights" when the appellate record is not timely filed).

On remand, the trial court shall determine the following: (1) what tasks remain to complete the filing of the reporter's record; (2) why the reporter has not completed the necessary tasks; (3) what amount of time is reasonably necessary for the completion of those tasks; and (4) whether the reporter can complete the tasks within the time the trial court finds reasonable.

Should the trial court determine that the reporter will require more than thirty days to complete, certify, and file the reporter's record, it shall arrange for a substitute reporter to do so. The trial court is directed to enter such orders necessary to address the aforementioned questions. So too shall it include its findings on those matters in a supplemental clerk's record and cause that record to be filed with this Court by February 27, 2026.

2 Should the reporter file the record on or before February 11, 2026, she is directed to immediately notify the trial court of the filing, in writing, whereupon the trial court shall not be required to take any further action. It is so ordered. Per Curiam Do not publish. 3

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