

COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE THIRTEENTH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

In the Interest of L.A.C.E., K.Y.C., I.A.C., and J.A.C., Minor
Children v. the State of Texas

In re L.A.C.E. · No. 13-26-00427-CV · Decided June 4, 2026

SUMMARY

The Thirteenth Court of Appeals of Texas dismissed an appeal from an attempted appeal of a parental-rights termination judgment. The court held that it lacked jurisdiction because no final, appealable order or other appealable interlocutory order had been established, and dismissed the appeal for want of jurisdiction under Texas Rule of Appellate Procedure 42.3.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Court of Appeals for the Thirteenth District of Texas
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Justice Clarissa Silva; Chief Justice Tijerina; Justice Silva; Justice Cron
JURISDICTION	Court of Appeals for the Thirteenth District of Texas
DECIDED	June 4, 2026
DOCKET	13-26-00427-CV
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	E.C. attempted to appeal a judgment allegedly terminating her parental rights, but her notice of appeal stated that no written order had been signed. The court of appeals dismissed the appeal for want of jurisdiction.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court independently determined whether it had appellate jurisdiction based on the existence of an appealable interlocutory order or final judgment.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	published
PARTIES	E.C. v. The State of Texas

TOPICS

- termination of parental rights
- parental rights
- appellate jurisdiction
- final judgment rule
- appellate procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

family law

appellate procedure

termination of parental rights

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court of appeals had jurisdiction over an appeal when the notice of appeal indicated that no written final order had been signed.
2. Whether the appeal should be dismissed when the appellant failed to establish the existence of an appealable interlocutory order or final judgment.

HOLDINGS

1. Absent an appealable interlocutory order or final judgment, the court of appeals lacks jurisdiction over the appeal.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

E.C. sought to appeal a purported judgment terminating her parental rights over L.A.C.E., K.Y.C., I.A.C., and J.A.C. Her notice of appeal expressly indicated that no written order had been signed. After being notified that no final, appealable order appeared to exist, she did not cure the jurisdictional defect.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

E.C. filed a notice of appeal on May 21, 2026, attempting to appeal a judgment terminating her parental rights in Hidalgo County trial-court cause number CW-0114-23-J. The clerk notified her that the record appeared to contain no final, appealable order and gave her ten days to cure the defect. E.C. failed to establish appellate jurisdiction or correct the notice, so the court dismissed the appeal.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- *Ogletree v. Matthews*, 262 S.W.3d 316, 319 n.1 (Tex. 2007)
- *Lehmann v. Har-Con Corp.*, 39 S.W.3d 191, 195 (Tex. 2001)

OPINION

In the Interest of L.A.C.E., K.Y.C., I.A.C., and J.A.C., Minor Children v. the State of Texas
PER CURIAM.

NUMBER 13-26-00427-CV

COURT OF APPEALS

THIRTEENTH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

CORPUS CHRISTI – EDINBURG

IN THE INTEREST OF L.A.C.E., K.Y.C., I.A.C.,

AND J.A.C., MINOR CHILDREN
ON APPEAL FROM THE 430TH DISTRICT COURT
OF HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS
MEMORANDUM OPINION

Before Chief Justice Tijerina and Justices Silva and Cron Memorandum Opinion by Justice Silva
This matter is before the Court on its own motion. On May 21, 2026, appellant E.C. filed a notice of appeal attempting to appeal a judgment terminating her parental rights over her minor children, L.A.C.E., K.Y.C., I.A.C., and J.A.C. in trial court cause number CW-0114-23-J. 1 However, appellant indicated in her notice of appeal that no written order 1 We refer to appellant and the children by their initials in accordance with the rules of appellate had been signed. On May 22, 2026, the Clerk of the Court notified appellant that it appears there is no final, appealable order. Furthermore, appellant was notified that if the defect was not cured within ten days, the appeal shall be dismissed. Absent an appealable interlocutory order or final judgment, this Court has no jurisdiction over this appeal. See *Ogletree v. Matthews*, 262 S.W.3d 316, 319 n.1 (Tex. 2007); *Lehmann v. Har-Con Corp.*, 39 S.W.3d 191, 195 (Tex. 2001). The Court, having considered the documents on file and appellant's failure to establish jurisdiction or otherwise correct the defect in her notice of appeal, is of the opinion that the appeal should be dismissed. See TEX. R. APP. P. 42.3(a). Accordingly, the appeal is dismissed for want of jurisdiction. See *id.* R. 42.3(a), (c).

CLARISSA SILVA

Justice Delivered and filed on the 4th day of June, 2026. procedure. See TEX. R. APP. P. 9.8(b)(2).