

COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIRST DISTRICT OF TEXAS

In re Lisa Marie Clontz

No. 01-26-00396-CV · No. 01-26-00396-CV · Decided April 28, 2026

SUMMARY

The Texas First Court of Appeals denied a pro se petition for writ of mandamus seeking to compel the trial court to rule on motions to transfer venue and reinstate proceedings in a family-law case. The court held that the relator failed to show that the motions had been presented to or brought to the attention of the trial court, or that a demand for rulings had been made.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Court of Appeals for the First District of Texas
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Justice Gunn; Justice Caughey; Justice Morgan
JURISDICTION	Court of Appeals for the First District of Texas
DECIDED	April 28, 2026
DOCKET	01-26-00396-CV
DISPOSITION	writ_denied
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Original proceeding on a pro se petition for writ of mandamus challenging the trial court's failure to rule on a motion to transfer venue and a motion to reinstate.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Mandamus relief requires the relator to establish a clear legal duty to perform a nondiscretionary act, a request that the act be performed, and the trial court's failure or refusal to perform it. A court cannot be deemed to have failed or refused to act absent proof that it was aware of its obligation to act.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published memorandum opinion; precedential status is stated as published in the supplied metadata.
PARTIES	Lisa Marie Clontz, Relator

TOPICS

- writ of certiorari
- appellate procedure
- venue
- civil procedure
- family law procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Clontz established entitlement to mandamus relief compelling the trial court to rule on her motion to transfer venue and motion to reinstate.
2. Whether filing motions with the trial-court clerk, without proof that the motions were presented to or brought to the trial court's attention and accompanied by a demand for ruling, satisfies the requirements for mandamus relief.

HOLDINGS

1. A relator seeking mandamus relief based on a trial court's failure to perform a ministerial duty must establish that the trial court had a legal duty to perform a nondiscretionary act, was asked to perform it, and failed or refused to do so.
2. A file-stamped copy showing that a motion was filed with the court clerk does not prove that the motion was brought to the trial court's attention or presented with a request for a ruling.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"Showing that a motion was filed with the court clerk does not constitute proof that the motion was brought to the trial court's attention or presented to the trial court with a request for a ruling."

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Clontz filed a motion to transfer venue and a motion to reinstate and withdraw attorney in an underlying marital case. She included file-stamped copies of those motions in her mandamus record. The record did not establish that the motions were presented to or brought to the attention of the trial court, nor did it show that she demanded that the court rule on them.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Clontz filed a petition for writ of mandamus in the First Court of Appeals seeking an order directing the 309th District Court of Harris County to rule on pending motions. Although she provided file-stamped copies of the motions, the mandamus record did not show that the motions had been presented to or brought to the attention of the trial court, or that she had demanded rulings. The court denied mandamus relief and dismissed pending motions as moot.

DISPOSITION

writ_denied

CASES CITED

- In re Blakeney, 254 S.W.3d 659, 661–62 (Tex. App.—Texarkana 2008, orig. proceeding)

- In re OxyVinyls, LP, No. 01-23-00708-CV, 2023 WL 8938412, at *3 (Tex. App.—Houston [1st Dist.] Dec. 28, 2023, orig. proceeding) (mem. op.)
- In re Chavez, 62 S.W.3d 225, 228 (Tex. App.—Amarillo 2001, orig. proceeding)
- In re Davidson, 153 S.W.3d 490, 491 (Tex. App.—Amarillo 2004, orig. proceeding)

OPINION

In Re Lisa Clonitz v. the State of Texas

PER CURIAM.

Opinion issued April 28, 2026 In The Court of Appeals For The First District of Texas

NO. 01-26-00396-CV

IN RE LISA MARIE CLONTZ, Relator Original Proceeding on Petition for Writ of Mandamus
MEMORANDUM OPINION

Relator, Lisa Marie Clontz, proceeding pro se, filed a petition for a writ of mandamus “challeng[ing] the trial court’s failure to rule on long-pending motions, including a motion to transfer venue and motion to reinstate.”¹ Relator requested 1 The underlying case is In the Matter of the Marriage of Lisa Marie Clontz and Edward John Kuntze III, Cause No. 2023-06691, in the 309th District Court of Harris County, Texas, the Honorable Linda Dunson presiding. that this Court issue a writ of mandamus directing the trial court to “promptly rule on [r]elator’s Motion to Transfer Venue and Motion to Reinstate.” “A trial court is required to consider and rule on a properly filed and pending motion within a reasonable time.” In re Blakeney, 254 S.W.3d 659, 661 (Tex. App.—Texarkana 2008, orig. proceeding). Consequently, mandamus relief may issue to compel a trial court to rule on a motion when the trial court does not rule in a timely fashion. See In re OxyVinyls, LP, No. 01-23-00708-CV, 2023 WL 8938412, at *3 (Tex. App.—Houston [1st Dist.] Dec. 28, 2023, orig. proceeding) (mem. op.) (granting mandamus relief where trial court failed to rule on motion to compel arbitration seven months after filed and five months after motion was set on trial court’s submission docket). However, to be entitled to mandamus relief based on a failure to perform a ministerial duty, a relator must establish that the trial court (1) had a legal duty to perform a non-discretionary act, (2) was asked to perform the act, and (3) failed or refused to do so. In re Chavez, 62 S.W.3d 225, 228 (Tex. App.—Amarillo 2001, orig. proceeding). We may not conclude that the trial court has failed or refused to act if relator does not establish that the trial court was aware of its obligation to act. See In re Blakeney, 254 S.W.3d at 662. Here, relator has included a file-stamped copy of her “Motion to Transfer Venue” and “Motion to Reinstate and Withdraw Attorney” in her mandamus record. 2 But the record presented to this Court fails to show that the motions have been presented to, or brought to the attention of, the trial court. Id. (“Showing that a motion was filed with the court clerk does not constitute proof that the motion was brought to the trial court’s attention or presented to the trial court with a request for a ruling.”). Nor does the mandamus record include any evidence that relator has made a demand on the trial court to rule on her motions. See TEX. R. APP. P. 52.7(a)(1) (requiring relator to file

“certified or sworn copy of every document that is material to the relator’s claim for relief and that was filed in any underlying proceeding); see also *In re Davidson*, 153 S.W.3d 490, 491 (Tex. App. —Amarillo 2004, orig. proceeding) (concluding relator was not entitled to mandamus relief where relator failed to show “that demand ha[d] been made upon [trial court] for action on the alleged motion filed with the trial court clerk”). While relator’s mandamus record does include a document titled, “Emergency Request for Hearing by Submission, Motion for Ruling on Pending Motions, to Compel Performance of Ministerial Duty, and Application for Temporary Injunction,” there is no indication in the mandamus record that this document was filed with the trial court, let alone that it was “brought to the trial court’s attention or presented to the trial court with a request for a ruling.” *In re Blakeney*, 254 S.W.3d at 662. 3 Accordingly, we conclude that relator has failed to establish she is entitled to mandamus relief, and therefore, the Court denies relator’s petition for writ of mandamus. We dismiss any pending motions as moot.

PER CURIAM

Panel consists of Justices Gunn, Caughey, and Morgan. 4