

STEPHENS COUNTY COURTHOUSE

200 West Walker Breckenridge, Texas 76424

Misty Griffith **COURT CLERK** Stephens County

To the Citizens of Stephens County:

Steve Spoon

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Stephens County Precinct No. 1 1-254-559-5322

> A Justice of the Peace has no obligation under Texas law, or any other law, to perform wedding ceremonies.

> I am working very hard to provide a court that is fair to all people. The Judicial Code of Ethics that I follow has the following language: "A judge shall not, in the performance of judicial duties, by words or conduct manifest bias or prejudice, including but not limited to bias or prejudice based upon race, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status, and shall not knowingly permit staff, court officials and others subject to the judge's direction and control to do so."

Furthermore, it is important that a court operate in a non-discriminatory fashion in order to avoid violating the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

As Justice of the Peace, I have decided to stop performing all weddings in my court. This is the most fair and nonprejudicial approach.

All citizens are welcome in the Justice Court in Stephens County. I value and respect each and every citizen. If we may be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

It is my honor to serve all of you.

Kindest Regards,

Justice of the Peace

Stephens County Texas