

# TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, THIRD DISTRICT, AT AUSTIN

## ORDER REGARDING THE COVID-19 STATE OF DISASTER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Governor Abbott has declared a state of disaster in all 254 counties in the State of Texas in response to the imminent threat of the COVID-19 pandemic. This order is issued pursuant to Section 22.0035(b) of the Texas Government Code.
2. The Supreme Court of Texas and the Court of Criminal Appeals have issued a First Emergency Order of March 13, 2020, authorizing courts of this state, subject only to constitutional limitations, to modify procedures and guidelines in any case, civil or criminal, and to take steps to avoid risk to court staff, parties, attorneys, jurors, and the public.
3. The Third Court of Appeals has instituted internal measures to protect its employees and the public while utilizing remote technology and e-filing to continue progress toward the court's resolution of cases through the affected time. The Court will suspend the hearing of oral arguments and any other in-person proceedings through May 8th, 2020, subject to further order of the Chief Justice.
4. The Court is cognizant of the challenges faced by parties and attorneys during the affected time, yet dedicated to the continued progress toward resolution of each case. As a baseline, all appellate timetables and filing deadlines in each case will be maintained. Should special circumstances necessitate extensions or other changes in those timelines, or submission on briefs of cases previously scheduled for oral argument, the Court stands available to consider any such written requests on a case-specific basis.

Signed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020.



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Jeff L. Rose, Chief Justice