

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Misc. Docket No. 20-9042

IN THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS OF TEXAS

Misc. Docket No. 20-007

FIRST EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING THE COVID-19 STATE OF DISASTER

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.

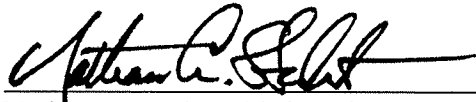
2. Subject only to constitutional limitations, all courts in Texas may in any case, civil or criminal—and must to avoid risk to court staff, parties, attorneys, jurors, and the public—without a participant’s consent:

a. Modify or suspend any and all deadlines and procedures, whether prescribed by statute, rule, or order, for a stated period ending no later than 30 days after the Governor’s state of disaster has been lifted;

b. Allow or require anyone involved in any hearing, deposition, or other proceeding of any kind—including but not limited to a party, attorney, witness, or court reporter, but not including a juror—to participate remotely, such as by teleconferencing, videoconferencing, or other means;

- c. Consider as evidence sworn statements made out of court or sworn testimony given remotely, out of court, such as by teleconferencing, videoconferencing, or other means;
 - d. Conduct proceedings away from the court's usual location, but in the county of venue, and only with reasonable notice and access to the participants and the public;
 - e. Require every participant in a proceeding to alert the court if the participant has, or knows of another participant who has, COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms, or a fever, cough or sneezing;
 - f. Take any other reasonable action to avoid exposing court proceedings to the threat of COVID-19.
3. All courts in Texas may extend the statute of limitations in any civil case for a stated period ending no later than 30 days after the Governor's state of disaster has been lifted.
4. This Order is effective as of March 13, 2020, and expires May 8, 2020, unless extended by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
5. The Clerk of the Supreme Court is directed to:
- a. post a copy of this Order on www.txcourts.gov;
 - b. file a copy of this Order with the Secretary of State; and
 - c. send a copy of this Order to the Governor, the Attorney General, and each member of the Legislature.
6. The State Bar of Texas is directed to take all reasonable steps to notify members of the Texas bar of this Order.

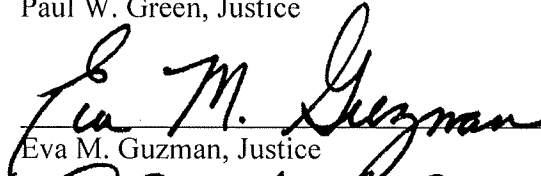
Dated: March 13, 2020



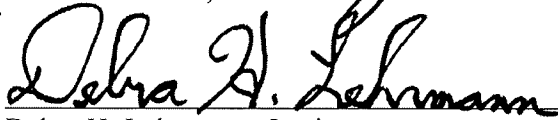
Nathan L. Hecht, Chief Justice



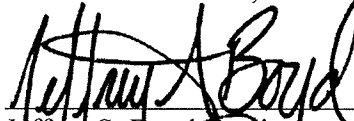
Paul W. Green, Justice



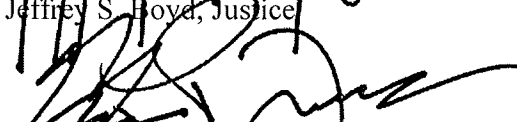
Eva M. Guzman, Justice



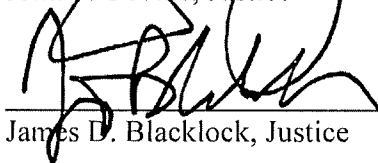
Debra H. Lehrmann, Justice



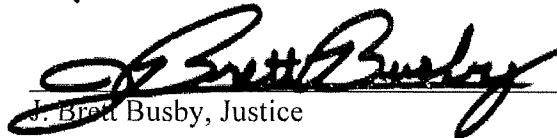
Jeffrey S. Boyd, Justice



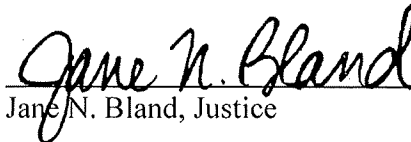
John P. Devine, Justice



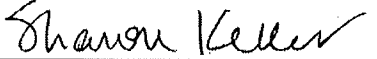
James D. Blacklock, Justice

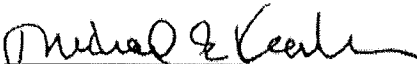



J. Brett Busby, Justice



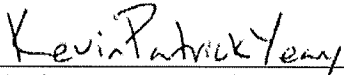
Jane N. Bland, Justice

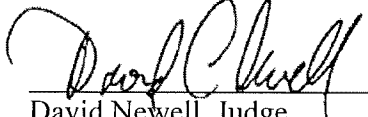

Sharon Keller, Presiding Judge

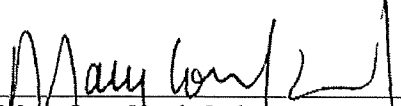

Michael Keasler, Judge

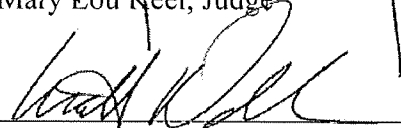

Barbara P. Hervey, Judge

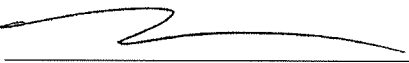
Bert Richardson, Judge


Kevin P. Yeary, Judge


David Newell, Judge


Mary Lou Keel, Judge


Scott Walker, Judge


Michelle M. Slaughter, Judge

MISCELLANEOUS DOCKET NUMBER 20-01

TEMPORARY EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE DISTRICT COURTS AND STATUTORY COUNTY COURTS OF MIDLAND COUNTY, TEXAS

State officials, and other appropriate agencies, have considered the implementation of measures necessary to address the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Governor Abbott has issued a disaster proclamation. The Texas Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals have issued emergency orders modifying and suspending certain provisions which relate to the administration of court proceedings. See Supreme Court *Misc. Docket No. 20-9042* and Court of Criminal Appeals *Misc. Docket No. 20-007* (March 13, 2020). The Office of Court Administration (OCA) and the Presiding Judges for the eleven Administrative Judicial Regions of Texas have promulgated recommendations and guidelines for the courts to consider in pursuing effective docket control and court management during this time of uncertainty.

Considering the aforementioned orders, declarations and recommendations, and being mindful of the Judiciary's responsibility to invoke procedures that are necessary to protect the health and safety of the public under the existing circumstances,

IT IS ORDERED that, excepting essential matters as set forth herein, all trial settings scheduled in the District Courts and County Courts at Law for the period March 16, 2020 through April 3, 2020 are VACATED and shall be rescheduled to a later date.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that to the extent practicable, and consistent with the above directives and recommendations, the Courts shall schedule the following essential matters during the stated period of this order:

- (a) Arraignments, guilty pleas, probation revocations, writs of habeas corpus, and bond requests involving defendants who are in custody;
- (b) Applications for the appointment of counsel submitted by indigent defendants who are in custody;
- (c) Applications for temporary restraining orders and temporary injunctions;
- (d) Applications for protective orders brought under the Texas Family Code or the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure;
- (e) Suits brought under Chapter 157, Texas Family Code, specifically writs of habeas corpus, writs of attachment for children, and enforcement actions in which a Respondent is incarcerated;
- (f) Summary judgment motions by submission;
- (g) Other applications for emergency relief; and
- (h) Any other hearing determined by a court to be necessary to the administration of justice.

These scheduling limitations shall remain in effect through April 3, 2020, or upon further order of the Courts. The Courts may issue amended or supplemental orders.

The Court encourages persons with COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms, a fever, or who are coughing or sneezing, to contact the court before appearing. Any attorneys who know that clients, witnesses, or others have such a condition should alert the court in advance. The court will make reasonable accommodations and reschedule appearances and hearings as needed.

During the period of this order, in order to protect the health and safety of court staff, the Courts have adopted a schedule of the courts that will be fully staffed on specified days in addition to and contact information for each court. If you have any questions or concerns regarding a specific case, please contact the court in which your case is pending.

SIGNED March 16, 2020.



HON. DAVID W. LINDEMOOR
Local Administrative District Judge

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 16 - MARCH 20

If you have questions regarding your case, please either call your attorney or contact the coordinator in the fully staffed Court. You may also call or email the coordinator of the court in which your case is pending.

DISTRICT COURT WITH FULL STAFF:

MONDAY - 142ND (10th Floor)

Judge Jody Gilles
Coordinator: Ibe Franco
Contact info:
ifranco@mcounty.com
688-4375

TUESDAY - 318th (9th Floor)

Judge David Lindemood
Coordinator: Melissa Bianchi
Contact info:
mbianchi@mcounty.com
688-4390

WEDNESDAY - 385th (8th Floor)

Judge Rodney Satterwhite presiding
Coordinator: Heather Henderson
Contact info:
hhenderson@mcounty.com
688-4385

THURSDAY -441st (9th Floor)

Judge Jeff Robnett
Coordinator: Nancy Berdoza
Contact info:
nberdoza@mcounty.com
688-4520

FRIDAY -238th (8th Floor)

Judge Elizabeth Leonard
Coordinator: JoAnn Gonzalez
Contact info:
jgonzalez@mcounty.com
688-4380

COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW WITH FULL STAFF

MONDAY

Judge K. Kyle Peeler
Coordinator: Dalia Galindo
Contact Info:
dgalindo@mcounty.com
688-4460

TUESDAY

Judge Marvin Moore
Coordinator: Jessica Montoya
Contact Info:
jmontoya@mcounty.com
688-4460

WEDNESDAY

Judge K. Kyle Peeler
Coordinator: Dalia Galindo
Contact Info:
dgalindo@mcounty.com
688-4460

THURSDAY

Judge Marvin Moore
Coordinator: Jessica Montoya
Contact Info:
jmontoya@mcounty.com
688-4460

FRIDAY

Judge K. Kyle Peeler
Coordinator: Dalia Galindo
Contact Info:
dgalindo@mcounty.com
688-4460