



**IN THE JUSTICE COURTS,
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS**

**ORDER REGARDING COURT PROCEEDINGS PENDING
COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY**

The Supreme Court of Texas and the Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas have issued an order that all courts in Texas, subject only to constitutional limitations, must act to avoid risk to court staff, parties, attorneys, jurors, and the public. The Texas Office of Court Administration has further recommended that courts postpone all “non-essential” cases.

THEREFORE, given the severity of the risk of the spread of COVID-19, and taking into consideration matters of public health, while reducing the size of public gatherings, the sixteen individual Justice Courts of Harris County, Texas hereby ORDER:

1. All civil and criminal bench and jury trials scheduled to begin on any date from now through March 31, 2020, are continued, to a date to be reset by each Court. Each Court will contact litigants regarding a reset date as soon as practicable for the Court;
2. Court Dockets scheduled to begin on any date from now through March 31, 2020, are continued, to a date to be reset by each Court. Each Court will contact litigants regarding a reset date as soon as practicable for the Court;
3. All jury service scheduled to begin on any date from now through March 31, 2020 is suspended;
4. Forcible Entry & Detainer (Eviction) Dockets scheduled to begin on any date from now through March 31, 2020, will be suspended, subject to re-evaluation at that time. However, a landlord or a tenant may request a trial (i) by agreement of all parties, or (ii) if a request for a trial on those eviction cases where the tenant’s and/or their invitee’s violent and/or criminal behavior threaten the safety, peace, quiet enjoyment and/or wellbeing of others;
5. Subject to the foregoing, Court Dockets on any date from now through March 31, 2020 will be limited to only “essential court proceedings.” Essential court proceedings include but are not limited to writs of re-entry, writs of retrieval, writs of restoration,

magistration of defendants in custody and of fugitives from justice (in or out of custody, repair and remedy cases that materially affect the physical health or safety of a tenant;

6. The Court may allow or require anyone involved in any hearing, deposition, or other proceeding of any kind—including but not limited to a party, attorney, witness, but not including a juror—to participate remotely, such as by teleconferencing, videoconferencing, or other means;
7. Nothing in this Order affects the ability of each Justice of the Peace Court's inherent discretion to further adjust and/or modify each Court's own dockets; and
8. Each Court will remain open during regular business hours (subject to further review), continue to accept filings, service constituents, and review all matters filed by submission.

Because the current situation remains fluid and evolving, the Courts may modify and/or extend the terms of this Order. Otherwise, this Order will remain in effect through March 31, 2020, and will then expire.

Furthermore, if a party or attorney is exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms, including fever, coughing or sneezing, or if one believes he or she may have been exposed to COVID-19, the Court encourages the party or attorney to contact the Court before appearing.

Furthermore, to reduce the threat of contracting or passing the virus, litigants are encouraged to file all civil filings and certain criminal filings through EFILETEXAS.gov, or such other means as each individual Court may permit.

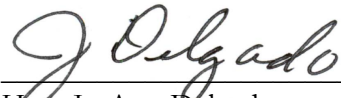
SIGNED, ENTERED, AND ORDERED this 19th day of March, 2020.



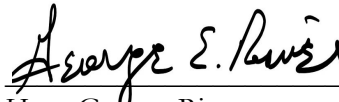
Hon. Eric William Carter, Presiding Judge
Justice of the Peace - Precinct 1, Place 1
Harris County, Texas



Hon. David Patronella
Justice of the Peace - Precinct 1, Place 2
Harris County, Texas



Hon. Jo Ann Delgado
Justice of the Peace - Precinct 2, Place 1
Harris County, Texas



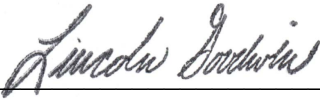
Hon. George Risner
Justice of the Peace - Precinct 2, Place 2
Harris County, Texas



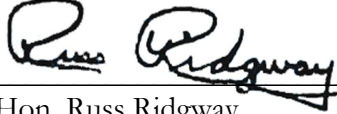
Hon. Joe Stephens
Justice of the Peace - Precinct 3, Place 1
Harris County, Texas



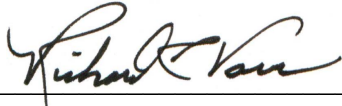
Hon. Lucia Bates
Justice of the Peace - Precinct 3, Place 2
Harris County, Texas




Hon. Lincoln Goodwin
Justice of the Peace - Precinct 4, Place 1
Harris County, Texas



Hon. Russ Ridgway
Justice of the Peace - Precinct 5, Place 1
Harris County, Texas



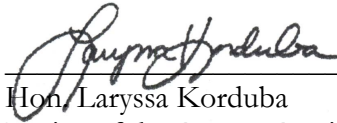
Hon. Richard Vara
Justice of the Peace - Precinct 6, Place 1
Harris County, Texas



Hon. Jeremy L. Brown
Justice of the Peace - Precinct 7, Place 1
Harris County, Texas



Hon. Holly Williamson, Co-Presiding Judge
Justice of the Peace - Precinct 8, Place 1
Harris County, Texas



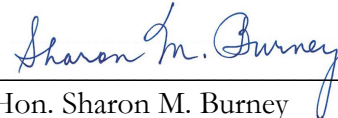
Hon. Laryssa Korduba
Justice of the Peace - Precinct 4, Place 2
Harris County, Texas



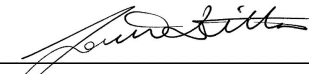
Hon. Jeff Williams
Justice of the Peace - Precinct 5, Place 2
Harris County, Texas



Hon. Angela D. Rodriguez
Justice of the Peace - Precinct 6, Place 2
Harris County, Texas



Hon. Sharon M. Burney
Justice of the Peace - Precinct 7, Place 2
Harris County, Texas



Hon. Louie Ditta
Justice of the Peace - Precinct 8, Place 2
Harris County, Texas