

IN THE JUSTICE COURTS, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

THIRD AMENDED 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 avoid risk to court staff, parties, attorneys, jurors, and the public. The Texas Office of Court Administration has also issued guidance regarding the manner and means in which all court proceedings, essential and non-essential, should be heard.

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 hereby ORDER:

- 1. All jury service scheduled to begin on any date from now through May 31, 2020 is suspended;
- Residential Forcible Entry & Detainer (Residential Eviction) cases will be suspended through May 18, 2020, in accordance with the Fourth Emergency Order Regarding the Covid-19 State of Disaster, originally issued by the Supreme Court of Texas on March 19, 2020, as extended by their Ninth Emergency Order, dated April 6, 2020 and the Twelfth Emergency Order, dated, April 27, 2020, and subject thereto;
- 3. Subject to the foregoing, all other Court Dockets on any date from now through the expiration of this Order will be conducted in accordance with the guidelines put forth by the Supreme Court of Texas, including their Twelfth and Fourteenth Emergency Orders, dated April 27, 2020 and April 29, 2020, respectively;
- 4. 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;
- 5. Nothing in this Order affects the ability of each Justice Court's inherent discretion to further adjust and/or modify each Court's own dockets; and

6. Each Court may 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 May 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 30th day of April, 2020.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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

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