

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:

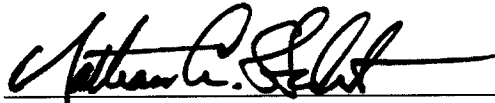
a. post a copy of this Order on www.txcourts.gov;

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.

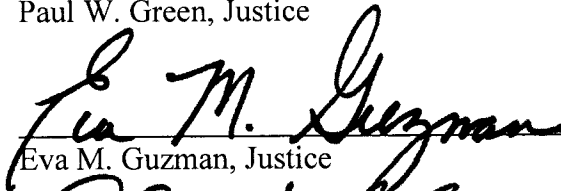
Dated: March 13, 2020



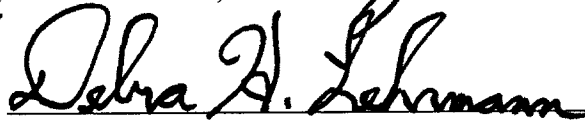
Nathan L. Hecht, Chief Justice



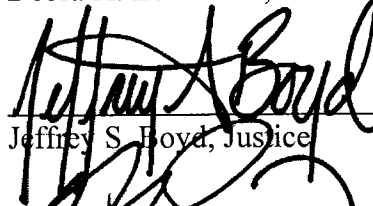
Paul W. Green, Justice



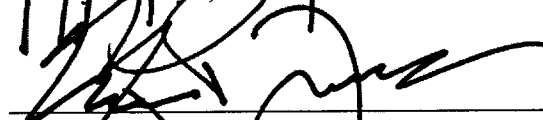
Eva M. Guzman, Justice



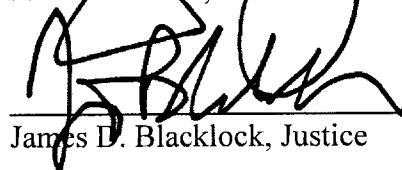
Debra H. Lehrmann, Justice



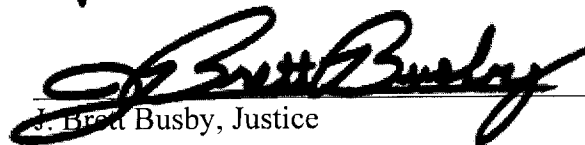
Jeffrey S. Boyd, Justice



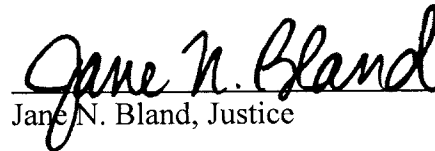
John P. Devine, Justice




James D. Blacklock, Justice



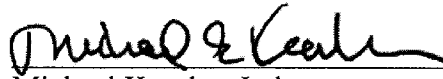
J. Brett Busby, Justice



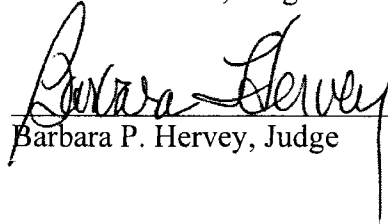
Jane N. Bland, Justice



Sharon Keller, Presiding Judge

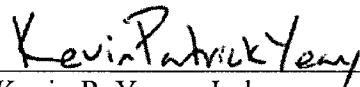


Michael Keasler, Judge

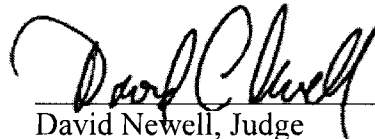


Barbara P. Hervey, Judge

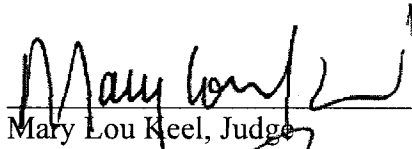
Bert Richardson, Judge




Kevin P. Yeary, Judge



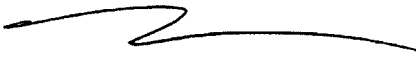
David Newell, Judge



Mary Lou Keel, Judge



Scott Walker, Judge



Michelle M. Slaughter, Judge



FIRST STANDING ORDER REGARDING CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) MITIGATION
AND ALL JUSTICES OF THE PEACE IN EL PASO COUNTY (Order No. 01)

This Order is being issued in response to the recent outbreak of novel coronavirus in the United States and the State of Texas. The World Health Organization has declared that COVID 19 qualifies as a global pandemic, having spread across more than 120 countries with more than 4,000 confirmed cases in the United States. El Paso County has been closely monitoring the outbreak of novel coronavirus (which causes the disease designated as COVID- 19), including careful monitoring of the developing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"). The CDC has described the outbreak in the United States as a "rapidly evolving situation and is providing continuously updated guidance as to the appropriate community response to COVID-1 9 as conditions worsen. The CDC's guidance includes multiple types of mitigation strategies generally aimed at reducing or avoiding exposure to infected individuals

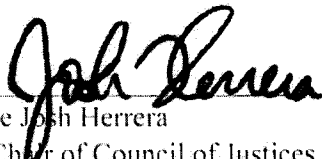
THEREFORE, given the severity of the risk of the spread of COVID-19, and taking into consideration matters of public health, while reducing the size of public gatherings, the Justices of the Peace Courts of El Paso County ORDER:

1. All civil and criminal bench and jury trials scheduled to begin on any date from now through April 16, 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, with the interest of everyone's health in mind;
2. Court Dockets scheduled to begin on any date from now through April 16, 2020, are continued, to a date be reset by each Court. Each Court will contact litigants regarding a reset date as soon as practicable for the Court;
3. Court Dockets on any date from now through April 16, 2020 will be limited to only "essential court proceedings." Essential court proceedings shall be limited to writs of re-entry, writs of retrieval, writs of restoration, magistration of defendants in custody of defendants in custody and of fugitives from justice (in or out of custody), and repair and remedy cases that materially affect the physical health or safety of a tenant;
4. 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 Court may modify and/or extend the terms of this Order. Otherwise, this Order will remain in effect through April 16, 2020, and then will expire.

Furthermore, if a party or an 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 Courts encourage those involved to make arrangements with each Court telephonically or electronically.

SIGNED, ENTERED AND ORDERED this 18th day of March, 2020.



Judge Josh Herrera
Co-Chair of Council of Justices
Justices of the Peace in El Paso County, TX

Judge Robert Pearson

J.P. Precinct One
424 Executive Ste 100
El Paso, TX 79902
(915) 534-3917

Judge Bryan J. Haggerty

J.P. Precinct Two
4641 Cohen, Ste. A
El Paso, TX 79936
(915) 751-7575

Judge Josh Herrera

J.P. Precinct Three
500 E. San Antonio, Rm 308
El Paso, TX 79901
(915) 546-2170

Judge Rebecca Bustamante

J.P. Precinct Four
2350 George Dieter Ste. 8
El Paso, TX 79936
(915) 538-1600

Judge John Chatman

J.P. Precinct Five
9521 Socorro Rd. St. B#2
El Paso, TX 79927
(915) 859-3744

Judge Ruben Lujan

J.P. Precinct Six
190 San Elizario Rd.
Clint, TX 79836
(915) 851-2019

Judge Enedina Serna

J.P. Precinct Six-Two
14608 Greg
El Paso, TX 79938
(915) 855-3062

Judge Stephanie Frieze

J.P. Precinct Seven
435 Vinton Rd.
El Paso, TX 79821
(915) 886-2599