

# IN THE TRAVIS COUNTY CIVIL AND FAMILY COURTS

Administrative File No. GN-61-121012

Filed in The District Court  
of Travis County, Texas

## FIRST AMENDED EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING COVID-19

MAR 27 2020 LJ

At 3:42 P.M.  
Veiva L. Price, District Clerk

Effective March 27, 2020

1. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the state of disaster declared by the Governor, the Stay-at-Home Orders issued by Travis County and the City of Austin, and the Emergency Orders that have been issued by the Supreme Court of Texas,<sup>1</sup> and to protect the due process rights and public health of all citizens, the Travis County Civil and Family Courts are suspending in-person hearings until at least May 11, 2020 and all jury trials until at least June 15, 2020. The only exception will be emergency hearings as determined by a judge. This order replaces the previous Emergency Order, which was effective on March 16, 2020.
2. All in-person hearings and jury trials currently scheduled from now through this time period are hereby postponed and will be rescheduled in one of four ways:
  - a. Resetting your case to a date after May 11, 2020 through Court Administration: either online at <https://www.traviscourtsapplications.org/portal> or by telephone at 512/854-CIVIL; or
  - b. For family cases, by requesting a telephonic or video hearing through Court Administration at 512/854-CIVIL or [Travis.CivilCourts@travistcountytx.gov](mailto:Travis.CivilCourts@travistcountytx.gov); or
  - c. For civil cases, by requesting a telephonic or video hearing directly to the court in which the case is filed; or
  - d. By requesting written submission consideration directly to the court in which the case is filed. Written submission requests must also include any affidavits, declarations or other necessary supporting records. This method is encouraged for all agreed motions and orders, as well as for non-testimonial matters.
3. Matters assigned under Local Rule 2.6 and Local Rule 10.2 shall remain assigned to their current judges. Parties should contact staff for the assigned judge for direction on how to proceed.

<sup>1</sup>The Supreme Court of Texas has issued seven emergency orders at current count, and all apply to the Travis County Civil and Family Courts. The orders can be found at <https://www.txcourts.gov/supreme/news/texas-supreme-court-coronavirus-update/>.



4. All pleadings must be first be filed with the clerk's office before requesting relief from any court.
5. Any matter submitted to any district judge may be referred to an associate judge where appropriate, or to any other district judge or county court at law judge. A district judge may refer any matter to a county court at law judge and a county court at law judge may refer any matter to a district judge, as is consistent with the Central Docket and the Local Rules.
6. The email addresses for communications with each court are as follows:

53 <sup>rd</sup> District Court	<a href="mailto:53.submission@traviscountytexas.gov">53.submission@traviscountytexas.gov</a>
98 <sup>th</sup> District Court	<a href="mailto:98.submission@traviscountytexas.gov">98.submission@traviscountytexas.gov</a>
126 <sup>th</sup> District Court	<a href="mailto:126.submission@traviscountytexas.gov">126.submission@traviscountytexas.gov</a>
200 <sup>th</sup> District Court	<a href="mailto:200.submission@traviscountytexas.gov">200.submission@traviscountytexas.gov</a>
201 <sup>st</sup> District Court	<a href="mailto:201.submission@traviscountytexas.gov">201.submission@traviscountytexas.gov</a>
250 <sup>th</sup> District Court	<a href="mailto:250.submission@traviscountytexas.gov">250.submission@traviscountytexas.gov</a>
261 <sup>st</sup> District Court	<a href="mailto:261.submission@traviscountytexas.gov">261.submission@traviscountytexas.gov</a>
345 <sup>th</sup> District Court	<a href="mailto:345.submission@traviscountytexas.gov">345.submission@traviscountytexas.gov</a>
353 <sup>rd</sup> District Court	<a href="mailto:353.submission@traviscountytexas.gov">353.submission@traviscountytexas.gov</a>
419 <sup>th</sup> District Court	<a href="mailto:419.submission@traviscountytexas.gov">419.submission@traviscountytexas.gov</a>
459 <sup>th</sup> District Court	<a href="mailto:459.submission@traviscountytexas.gov">459.submission@traviscountytexas.gov</a>
County Court at Law 1	<a href="mailto:CCL1.submissions@traviscountytexas.gov">CCL1.submissions@traviscountytexas.gov</a>
County Court at Law 2	<a href="mailto:CCL2.submissions@traviscountytexas.gov">CCL2.submissions@traviscountytexas.gov</a>

7. After receiving a submission or hearing request, court staff will then communicate to all parties regarding whether a judge will consider this matter by submission or by scheduling a telephonic or video hearing and whether any further communication or briefing shall be required from any parties.
8. Attorneys and litigants are strongly encouraged during this time period to utilize all forms of technology in order to keep their dockets and cases moving to the best of their ability, especially with regard to discovery, remote depositions and pre-trial matters. To that end, and to ensure the civil justice system functions as efficiently as possible under the circumstances, lawyers and litigants may request telephonic as well as video hearings to resolve their disputes. The court will determine: (a) whether to allow this hearing and the format; (b) the scope and length of the hearing; and (c) the procedures and methods of introducing evidence for the hearing.
9. For Child Protective Services (CPS) cases, all statutory review hearings will be postponed until the courts find it is reasonably possible to proceed, taking into account the circumstances. The courts will notify parties on those cases needing to be re-set once normal operations resume for in-person hearings.

10. Additionally, CPS courts will continue to hold Show Cause, Chapter 262 and Aid To Investigate hearings on Tuesday and Wednesday dockets at the discretion of the judge, and these matters will primarily be by Zoom video conference. All other urgent matters requiring rulings shall be submitted to the CPS courts through the Judicial Executive Assistant for which the case is assigned. The email addresses for the Judicial Executive Assistants are as follows:

126 <sup>th</sup> District Court	Hon. Darlene Byrne	<a href="mailto:Rene.Salinas@traviscountytexas.gov">Rene.Salinas@traviscountytexas.gov</a>
CPS Associate Court	Hon. Aurora Martinez Jones	<a href="mailto:April.Morton@traviscountytexas.gov">April.Morton@traviscountytexas.gov</a>

11. Each week, a duty judge will be available to hear emergency matters in accordance with the attached schedule (Exhibit A). The emergency duty judge will, at the discretion of the judge, determine if a matter qualifies as an emergency, and whether a matter must be held in person for any reason.
12. This Order does not include Juvenile Court matters, which are subject to the First Amended Emergency Order, effective March 25, 2020.
13. Other than emergencies determined by a judge, the Travis County Civil and Family courtrooms are hereby CLOSED until May 11, 2020.



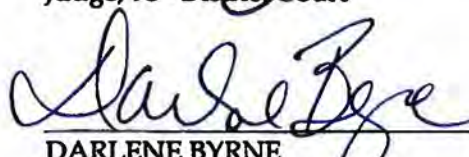
SIGNED and FILED with District Clerk's and County Clerk's Office on this 27th day of March, 2020.

  
SCOTT H. JENKINS  
Judge, 53<sup>rd</sup> District Court

  
LORA J. LIVINGSTON  
Judge, 261<sup>st</sup> District Court

  
RHONDA HURLEY  
Judge, 98<sup>th</sup> District Court

  
JAN SOIFER  
Judge, 345<sup>th</sup> District Court

  
DARLENE BYRNE  
Judge, 126<sup>th</sup> District Court

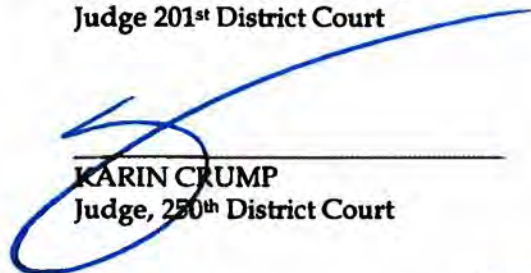
  
TIM SULAK  
Judge, 353<sup>rd</sup> District Court

  
DUSTIN M. HOWELL  
Judge, 200<sup>th</sup> District Court

  
CATHERINE A. MAUZY  
Judge, 419<sup>th</sup> District Court

  
AMY CLARK MEACHUM  
Judge 201<sup>st</sup> District Court

  
MAY GUERRA GAMBLE  
Judge, 459<sup>th</sup> District Court

  
KARIN CRUMP  
Judge, 250<sup>th</sup> District Court

  
TODD WONG  
Judge, County Court at Law #1

  
ERIC SHEPPERD  
Judge, County Court at Law #2

EXHIBIT A

***Civil District Courts – 2020 Duty Judge for Emergency Matters***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Duty Court Number*</b>	<b>Telephone Number</b>
Week of March 23	201 <sup>st</sup> District Court	512/854-9305
Week of March 30	250 <sup>th</sup> District Court	512/854-9312
Week of April 6	261 <sup>st</sup> District Court	512/854-9309
Week of April 13	345 <sup>th</sup> District Court	512/854-9374
Week of April 20	353 <sup>rd</sup> District Court	512/854-9380
Week of April 27	419 <sup>th</sup> District Court	512/854-4023
Week of May 4	459 <sup>th</sup> District Court	512/854-9384

*\*Duty Court Subject to Change.*