

# IN THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF WALLER COUNTY

## EMERGENCY ORDERS PERTAINING TO COVID-19

In accordance with Orders of the Supreme Court of Texas and The Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas (the "SCT/CCA Order") issued on March 13, 2020, the County Court at Law of Waller County, hereby enters the following emergency orders modifying and suspending certain provisions related to court proceedings. This order applies to all case types and is meant to provide flexibility to delay or modify proceedings as necessary to address the disaster.

1. Effective 8:00 a.m., March 20, 2020, all further court proceedings, including jury trials, bench trials, criminal dockets, and ancillary matters, are hereby suspended until April 12, 2020, except for emergency orders pertaining to children, temporary restraining orders, temporary injunctions on a case-by-case basis, habeas corpus proceedings, CPS removals, and bond hearings, and other matters as determined by the Court on a case-by-case basis.
2. Effective immediately, administrative and other matters conducted in chambers shall be conducted in a manner to avoid risk to court staff, parties, attorneys, jurors, and the public.
3. On a case-by-case basis, and determined with or without a participant's consent, the Court may:
  - 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.
4. The statute of limitations in any civil case maturing within 30-days after the date of this

Order shall be extended for a period of 45-days from the date of this Order, and thereafter as necessary on a case-by-cases basis, after submission to the Court, for a period not to exceed 30-days after the Governor's state of disaster has been lifted.

5. This Order may be extended or modified by written Order of this Court without notice. Any such extension or modification shall be posted with the County and District Clerk of this county, and posted on the Court's website at *www.co.waller.tx.us*.
6. This Order is effective at 8:00 a.m., on March 16, 2020, and expires May 8, 2020, unless extended by the Court.
7. All contact with the Court shall be by email through the Court Coordinator at *y.pinson@wallercounty.us*

Signed and entered March 16, 2020.

  
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JUDGE PRESIDING