

MISCELLANEOUS DOCKET NUMBER 20-01

**TEMPORARY EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING PROCEEDINGS
BEFORE THE DISTRICT COURTS AND STATUTORY COUNTY COURTS
OF MIDLAND COUNTY, TEXAS**

State officials, and other appropriate agencies, have considered the implementation of measures necessary to address the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Governor Abbott has issued a disaster proclamation. The Texas Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals have issued emergency orders modifying and suspending certain provisions which relate to the administration of court proceedings. See Supreme Court *Misc. Docket No. 20-9042* and Court of Criminal Appeals *Misc. Docket No. 20-007* (March 13, 2020). The Office of Court Administration (OCA) and the Presiding Judges for the eleven Administrative Judicial Regions of Texas have promulgated recommendations and guidelines for the courts to consider in pursuing effective docket control and court management during this time of uncertainty.

Considering the aforementioned orders, declarations and recommendations, and being mindful of the Judiciary's responsibility to invoke procedures that are necessary to protect the health and safety of the public under the existing circumstances,

IT IS ORDERED that, excepting essential matters as set forth herein, all trial settings scheduled in the District Courts and County Courts at Law for the period March 16, 2020 through April 3, 2020 are VACATED and shall be rescheduled to a later date.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that to the extent practicable, and consistent with the above directives and recommendations, the Courts shall schedule the following essential matters during the stated period of this order:

- (a) Arraignments, guilty pleas, probation revocations, writs of habeas corpus, and bond requests involving defendants who are in custody;
- (b) Applications for the appointment of counsel submitted by indigent defendants who are in custody;
- (c) Applications for temporary restraining orders and temporary injunctions;
- (d) Applications for protective orders brought under the Texas Family Code or the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure;
- (e) Suits brought under Chapter 157, Texas Family Code, specifically writs of habeas corpus, writs of attachment for children, and enforcement actions in which a Respondent is incarcerated;
- (f) Summary judgment motions by submission;
- (g) Other applications for emergency relief; and
- (h) Any other hearing determined by a court to be necessary to the administration of justice.

These scheduling limitations shall remain in effect through April 3, 2020, or upon further order of the Courts. The Courts may issue amended or supplemental orders.

The Court encourages persons with COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms, a fever, or who are coughing or sneezing, to contact the court before appearing. Any attorneys who know that clients, witnesses, or others have such a condition should alert the court in advance. The court will make reasonable accommodations and reschedule appearances and hearings as needed.

During the period of this order, in order to protect the health and safety of court staff, the Courts have adopted a schedule of the courts that will be fully staffed on specified days in addition to and contact information for each court. If you have any questions or concerns regarding a specific case, please contact the court in which your case is pending.

SIGNED March 16, 2020.

HON. DAVID W. LINDEMOOD
Local Administrative District Judge