

STATE DISTRICT COURTS OF

WEBB COUNTY, TEXAS

**SECOND EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING THE COVID-19
STATE OF DISASTER**

To all attorneys and parties with pending cases at the State District Courts of Webb County:

In conjunction with recent global events regarding the spread of the Coronavirus, the seven Emergency COVID-19 orders from the Texas Supreme Court and the orders from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, as well guidance from the Office of Court Administration and directives from the Webb County Board of District Court Judges, the following amended order will be in place until 30 days after the Emergency Orders issued by Governor Greg Abbott are lifted.

1. The courts will not conduct any non-essential proceedings in person. Essential proceedings will be restricted by each court and determined on a case by case basis, but may include cases of domestic violence, incarceration, or preservation of property. No more than 10 people shall be allowed in court for any case and all persons shall keep a 6 foot distance from each other, the judge and court staff.
2. All jury trials are suspended until June 2020, with possible suspensions to follow for additional periods.

3. Any party or attorney appearing in court for high priority cases shall notify the court of any symptoms such as fever, cough, or other flu like symptoms. Additionally, any party or attorney at risk of either spreading Coronavirus because of exposure or becoming seriously ill due to underlying medical issues if exposed to the virus should notify the court. These persons shall appear telephonically or by video conferencing regardless of the case.

4. All attorneys and any parties or witnesses shall attend regular dockets and/or pre-trials by telephone or through Zoom (for more information contact zoomhelp@txcourts.gov) and with coordination of each court and approval of the judge. Please consult with each court's coordinator as each may have different system preferences.

5. All district courts will immediately modify their dockets as is deemed reasonable by each district court, giving priority to incarcerated individuals. This means that previously calendared court settings may be moved in order to keep courtrooms at less than "10" total persons for high priority cases only.

6. All deadlines and procedures, whether prescribed by statute, rule, or order, are suspended for a period ending no later than 30 days after the Governor's state of disaster has been lifted.

7. Parties and counsel are encouraged to work outside of the courtroom. This means that they should confer on contested motions, work together via Rule 11 agreements, enter into plea agreements and mediate out of court so as to limit physical time in the courtrooms.

8. All possession or custody schedules shall not be affected by any school cancellation or shelter in place orders. In all instances, possession or access to a child shall be governed by the trial court's orders in place.

The State District Courts for Webb County ask for everyone's cooperation during this State of Disaster and National emergency. Your well-

being, as well as the safety of our staff and court personnel, must be a priority. Social responsibility by the District Courts will be taken seriously as will our continued commitment to justice.

EXECUTED on the 31st day of March, 2020



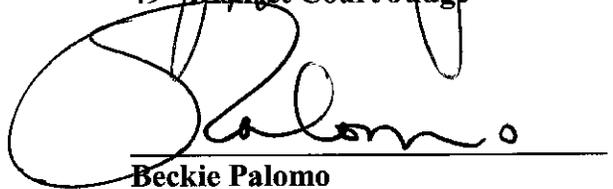
Monica Notzon, District Court Admin. Judge
111th District Court Judge



Jose A. Lopez
49th District Court Judge



Oscar J. Hale, Jr.
406th District Court Judge



Beckie Palomo
341st District Court Judge