

MISCELLANEOUS DOCKET No. 20-02

In the 278th Judicial District Court of Walker, Leon and Madison Counties, Texas

EMERGENCY ORDERS PERTAINING TO COVID-19

In accordance with Orders of the Supreme Court of Texas and the Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas issued on March 13, 2020, the 278th District Court of Walker, Leon and Madison Counties, hereby enters the following emergency orders modifying and suspending certain provisions related to court proceedings. This order applies to all cases and is meant to provide flexibility to delay or modify proceedings as necessary to address the disaster.

1. 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.

2. 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.
3. 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 District Clerks of the counties, and posted on the Court's website.
4. This Order is effective at 12:00 p.m., on March 18, 2020, and expires April 30, 2020, unless extended by the Court.

Signed and entered March 18, 2020, at 12:00 p.m.



Hal R. Ridley

Judge Presiding