

§ IN THE FAMILY DISTRICT COURTS

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§ TARRANT COUNTY TEXAS

Pursuant to the requirements of the Office of Court Administration for the Courts of the State of Texas to formulate an operating plan recognizing the need to ensure the health and safety of litigants, attorneys, visitors, court staff, judges and other individuals entering the buildings housing the courts, the Family Law Courts of Tarrant County make the following orders for the operation of the courts beginning June 1, 2020:

The Family District Courts shall be defined as the following courts: 231st District Court, 233rd District Court, 322nd District Court, 324th District Court, 325th District Court

This applies in every suit in Tarrant County filed or pending in the following courts beginning June 1, 2020.

In-person appearances at the Family Law Center by attorneys and litigants are discouraged.

HEARINGS:

All hearings will be conducted remotely by Zoom unless the parties can prove to the Judge hearing the case that they cannot reasonably successfully conduct the hearing remotely. This means there will be no prove-up dockets. Defaults will be heard remotely by Zoom.

Litigants and attorneys will email the court coordinator for settings. Each court will promulgate rules for remote hearings to give guidance to the participants.

In-person hearings will be conducted in such a manner to observe social distancing guidelines as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Tarrant County Public Health. This means that there will only be two persons at each counsel table and 11 spectators in the courtroom.

All persons entering the Family Law Center will be required to wear a mask at all times.

Regardless of whether the hearing is remote or in-person, all exhibits will be electronically forwarded to the court in advance of the hearing. Attorneys and Self Represented Litigants will be sure that all witnesses and each attorney have a complete copy of the exhibits for their use during trial. Voluminous exhibits will be addressed on a case by case basis by each court.

JURY TRIALS

Tarrant County has suspended all jury trials until the week of August 1, 2020.

FUTURE:

The courts will re-evaluate this procedure and amend this order as needed.

THIS ORDER SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE ON JUNE 1, 2020.

Hon. Jesus Nevarez

Judge, 231sts District Court

Hon. Jerome Hennigan

Judge, 324th District Court

Digitally signed by Kenneth E. Newell, District Judge Date: 2020.05.28 17:00:25

Hon. Kenneth Newell

Judge, 233rd District Court

Hon. Judith G. Wells

Judge, 325th District Court

Hon James Munford J

Judge, 322nd District Court

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