

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF §
 §
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS §
 §
11th JUDICIAL DISTRICT §


ORDER PROHIBITING ELECTRONIC RECORDINGS

On March 13, 2020, the Texas Supreme Court and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals issued their joint “First Emergency Order Regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster” (Misc. Docket No. 20-9042 and 20-007, “Emergency Order.”). The Emergency Order authorizes all courts in Texas to “[a]llow 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.”

While the Texas Supreme Court has authorized video and telephonic hearings during this state of emergency, and while this Court will conduct video and telephonic hearings, **unauthorized recording and broadcasting of court proceedings is prohibited.** Harris County Local Rule 5 prohibits unauthorized recording or broadcasting of court proceedings, and unauthorized broadcasting of court proceedings for personal, academic, or use by the media is prohibited.¹ No person, other than the court reporter, may record a court proceeding without the Court’s express permission. This prohibition applies to all persons, including members of the public or media viewing or listening to court proceedings.

Any person found in violation of this order could face monetary sanctions or criminal contempt. **Each violation of this order could result in a fine up to \$500 and a sentence of confinement in the Harris County Jail for up to six (6) months.**

SIGNED on April 1, 2020.



KRISTEN B. HAWKINS
JUDGE, 11TH DISTRICT COURT

¹ See also, Rule 12 of the Eleventh Administrative Judicial Region of Texas; TEX. R. CIV. P. 226a.