

**280<sup>th</sup> District Court**  
**Updated Covid-19 Procedures**  
**ATTORNEYS AND SELF REPRESENTED LITIGANTS**

**Until further notice, ALL essential matters will be heard via Zoom.**

**No in-person hearings will be held.<sup>1</sup>**

- All non-essential matters shall be heard via submission with 10 days' notice to the opposing side - ALL responses shall be filed 3 days before the submission ruling date. A non-essential matter is any ancillary matter in a Protective Order case that is not a trial setting for the Protective Order such as a motion for continuance or motion to vacate.
- All Temporary Ex Parte Protective Orders shall include the language that suspends the duration for the Temporary Ex Parte Protective Order of 20 days and instead insert the language the Temporary Ex Parte Protective Order is valid until further Court Order pursuant to the Texas Supreme Court Emerg Order 20-9042 et al

*\*\*\*Failure to include this language may result in the filing being rejected or the Temporary Ex Parte Protective Order denied.*

- **All Temporary Ex Parte Protective Orders and Notices of Hearings shall include the following:**

\*\*\*RESPONDENTS ARE ORDERED TO CONTACT THE COURT VIA EMAIL [280LATE@JUSTEX.NET](mailto:280LATE@JUSTEX.NET) AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE HEARING FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON APPEARING COURT VIA ZOOM AND SHALL COMPLY WITH ALL COURT'S PROCEDURES LISTED ON THE COURT'S WEBSITE.

*\*\*\*Failure to include this language will result in the Court rejecting the document until in this language has been included.*

- **There are no automatic resets due to Covid-19 if a case has been pref set for a trial.**

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<sup>1</sup> Texas Supreme Court Emergency Orders allow for all hearings to be conducted via Zoom- for further information please review the Texas Supreme Court Emergency Order 20-8042 et al.

- **The Court may consider a reset based on special circumstances. However due to the Court’s heavy caseload a continuance will not likely be given unless there are extraordinary circumstances. Pref sets are normally set at 1:30 pm and selected Fridays.**
- **Attorneys shall notify the Court via email “immediately” if a pref set settles or needs a reset so the Court can offer that slot for another case. At least 24 hours is required for all resets for pref settings unless there is good cause shown.**
- Temporary Protective Orders will be extended to the trial date if the Court resets the case for trial or pref set is rescheduled to a later date. There are no exceptions.
- The Zoom identification number shall not be shared with anyone other than the client and witnesses. This number is not to be shared with other attorneys unless they are the lead attorney on the case. If there are more than 2 attorneys on a case for each side the remainder attorneys shall not be allowed to participate via Zoom. They will need to share the room with another lawyer who is on Zoom.
- Any person who shares the meeting identification number may be subject to contempt of court. This is strictly enforced.
- There is no live streaming of any matters in the 280<sup>th</sup>! No exceptions.
- No person shall record or live stream or otherwise disseminate any information from any matter before the Court and may be held in contempt of court or be in violation of federal law 18US 2265.
- All persons shall review and comply with the Zoom procedures as posted on the Court’s website or sent to the person by Court staff.
- <sup>2</sup>Litigants who need to participate via Zoom but who do not have the needed equipment can request the Court to assist the by directing and scheduling a time for the litigant to go to a HC public library location where a Zoom Room has been set up.

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<sup>2</sup> These policies are subject to change without notice or may be modified or amended at the discretion of the Court