

179th District Court's Emergency Order

January 10, 2021

Beginning Monday, January 11th 2021 the new guidelines¹ for the 29th Supreme Court of Texas Emergency Order² will be implemented. The Office of Court Administration (OCA) has mandated that "[t]he judge shall inform each counsel and pro se litigant that **the hearing shall be conducted remotely over Zoom**. The judge shall provide each counsel and pro se litigant a phone number or email address to inform the Judge if they believe any counsel, their clients, a pro se litigant, any witness, an interpreter, or any other participant... **cannot** participate remotely." There are certain criteria "to determine when an in-person proceeding is necessary and when all reasonable efforts do not permit the proceeding to be conducted remotely." In accordance with the Supreme Court of Texas Emergency Order, the 179th District Court adopts the following policies:

DEFENDANTS:

All defendants' physical appearances are WAIVED. Defendants **SHALL NOT** physically appear in Court UNLESS:

- (1) They lack of access to technology;
- (2) They lack of ability to use the technology because of a physical or mental disability;
- (3) A constitutional claim that requires in-person appearances exists;
- (4) A defendant's personal identification is needed, including a fingerprint;
- (5) incarceration is a possible result of the proceedings; and/or
- (6) their appearance is for an essential hearing as defined previously by the OCA.

Defendants on bond **DO NOT** need to appear remotely over Zoom UNLESS:

- instructed to make an appearance by the court;
- not represented by counsel;
- set for their initial appearance (first appearance in court); OR
- defendant has pending bond conditions or violations.

ATTORNEYS

Attorneys SHALL appear remotely via Zoom. **If you cannot participate remotely for a reason listed above, contact the court at (832) 927-4113 or by email at john_king@justex.net** and the Court will determine if you or other parties can appear in person. Please refer to the 179th justex website for the State's and other Court's personnel contact information. <https://www.justex.net/Courts/Criminal/CriminalCourt.aspx?crt=31>

There will be a **consultation docket** starting every morning at 8:30 A.M. The State will be available on Zoom to consult on cases at this time. The Court's docket will begin at 9:30 AM. **State and Defense should be included on any correspondence with the coordinator when resetting cases.**

179th District Court Zoom Information:


Access to Defense Attorneys, Defendants and other parties / witnesses required to appear thru Zoom

Zoom Dial-In Number: 346-248-7799 (Houston)
Meeting ID: 784 792 1985
Zoom Link: <https://justex.zoom.us/my/Court179>

Access to Public Live Stream

<https://video.ibm.com/channel/skesqsuvnXy>

Signed this day Sunday, January 10th, 2021.



Hon. Ana Martinez, 179th District Court

¹ <https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1450221/guidance-for-all-court-proceedings-during-covid-19-pandemic.pdf>

² <https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1450050/209135.pdf>