

180TH CRIMINAL COURT DOCKET MANAGEMENT

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT

180th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

***FIRST AMENDED* STANDING ORDER—COVID-19**

TAKE NOTICE of the 180th Criminal District Court’s *First Amended* Standing Order in light of emerging CDC guidance and local protocols associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and declaration of a public health emergency:

- (1) **BOND DOCKET**. Physical appearance of attorneys and defendants for Bond docket is suspended until further notice. The Court is equipped with video-conferencing & teleconferencing capabilities. Attorneys with *Essential Court Matters*, (see para. 2) may contact the coordinator to schedule an appearance by phone or video (Zoom App).

- (2) **JAIL DOCKET**. Jail docket is still taking place. Anyone who has a health and safety concern based upon being present at the Courthouse may contact the court to “off-docket reset” **March & April** settings via phone or email. If a defendant is on bond during jail docket week, their appearance is *waived* automatically unless *Essential Court Matters* e, f, h, or i (see below) apply. Attorneys may still request a waiver by contacting the coordinator. Attorneys are not required to appear, but may request to do so for the *Essential Court Matters* listed below:
 - a. Probable cause determination;
 - b. Setting bail;
 - c. Appointment of Counsel;
 - d. Pre-trial writs;
 - e. Protective Orders;
 - f. Statutorily required deadlines;
 - g. Definite plea deals;
 - h. Scheduled Court admonishments for violation of bond conditions;
 - i. Matters deemed essential by the lawyers where time is of the essence.

Attorneys with *Essential Court Matters*, (see above) may contact the coordinator, Stephanie Spears at stephanie_spears@justex.net to schedule an appearance by phone or video (Zoom App).

- (3) **Court Procedures & Communication.** Electronic filing is mandatory, unless impossible. Motions should be filed electronically and will be resolved by submission, unless a hearing is requested or required and the Court so orders. In addition, communication with the Court should be restricted to telephone, video (Zoom App), or email unless it is impossible.

The purpose of this Order is to set conditions that will (1) reduce crowding, (2) limit large gatherings, and (3) stagger personnel flow in observance of CDC guidance and best practices. Questions may be submitted to the Court phone or email. Please visit www.justex.net and/or <https://www.facebook.com/HarrisCountyCriminalDistrictCourts> for more updates.

THIS ORDER **SUPERSEDES** ALL PREVIOUS 180TH STANDING ORDERS RELATED TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

SIGNED AND ENTERED on this the **18th day** of **March 2020**.



HONORABLE JUDGE PRESIDING