

337th District Court's Emergency Order

Beginning Monday, January 11th 2021 the new guidelines for the 29th Supreme Court of Texas Emergency Order will be implemented. A copy of the 29th Order can be found at the following link:

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

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.”

If you believe that you or any participant in your case cannot participate remotely for a reason listed below, please contact the court at (832) 927-3750 or by email at angela_jerez@justex.net

In accordance with the Supreme Court of Texas Emergency Order, the 337th District Court adopts the following policies:

DEFENDANTS:

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 **DO NOT** need to appear remotely via Zoom **UNLESS**

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

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ATTORNEYS

Attorneys shall appear remotely via Zoom. Attorneys may request to appear physically in court if exceptions 1-3 or 6 from above apply, but must make the request and be approved prior to any physical appearance.

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 parties are encouraged to confer, and the court will prioritize consideration of matters submitted by agreement. Attorneys may request a reset from the coordinator before docket call and without approaching the court provided they have spoken with the state AND their case does not fall into one of the exceptions listed below. All parties should be included on any correspondence with the coordinator.

The Court's docket will begin at 9:30 AM. Attorneys may reset cases prior to docket UNLESS:

- The case is older than 90 days and unindicted;
- The case is over 365 days old;
- The Defendant is in custody;
- The Defendant is on probation or has an MAJ /MRP;
- The Defendant has pending bond conditions or violations; or
- The Attorney has lost contact with the client

Court Contact Information:

Ms. Angela Jerez, court coordinator angela_jerez@justex.net

Ms. Tanika Moore, court liaison officer Tanika.Moore@csc.hctx.net

The prosecutors assigned to the 337th District Court are:

Chief: Goodman_Casey@dao.hctx.net

#2: Lee_Zachary@dao.hctx.net

#3: Stephenson_Georgina@dao.hctx.net

337th Zoom Information

Zoom Link: <https://justex.zoom.us/my/Court337>

Zoom Meeting ID No: 210-754-9710

Signed this day Sunday, January 10th, 2021.

s/Colleen Gaido

Hon. Colleen Gaido, Judge 337th District Court