

OCA CPC Statement

Judges and Court Coordinators,

As you are fully aware, the situation with coronavirus (COVID-19) is evolving rapidly and is having large impacts on the judicial system. To the extent possible, courts should be taking in active role on slowing the spread by limiting non-essential hearings in the near term.

As such, OCA and the Regional Presiding Judges are immediately directing all Child Support and Child Protection Courts to reschedule or postpone any non-essential hearings that are currently scheduled until at least April 1st. Obviously, emergency or essential hearings should continue, and we would advise you to attempt to reduce risk of exposure to all parties by holding those remotely via phone or video to the degree possible. We will reassess the situation and communicate further closer to that time. For our IV-D Courts, we are in conversations with the Attorney General's Office on processes that we can implement in the interim to have any non-testimonial and agreed orders signed and submitted electronically to help minimize the backlog these delays will create.

In addition, this afternoon Governor Greg Abbott declared a state of disaster. Judges and courts should hear more in the near future on any emergency orders issued by the Supreme Court of Texas.

We appreciate everyone's cooperation during this time and are available to assist and answer any questions that may arise.

Thanks,

Jeffrey Tsunekawa

Director of Research and Court Services

Office of Court Administration

205 W. 14th St., Ste. 600

Austin, TX 78701

O: 512-463-1629