

## **FIRST AMENDED STANDING ORDER: PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

A public health emergency having been declared by state and federal government officials relative to COVID-19, Coronavirus, while the 44<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court shall remain OPEN, it is implementing the following modified procedures commencing March 23, 2020, until the current public health emergency is lifted and jury trials re-commence. The Court may modify or suspend any other proceedings consistent with the Texas Supreme Court First and Third Emergency Orders Regarding the COVID-19, State of Disaster, Misc. Docket No. 20-9042 consistent with the Texas Office of Court Administration guidelines. See [tcourts.gov/supreme/administrative-orders/](https://tcourts.gov/supreme/administrative-orders/) and [txcourts.gov/media/court-procedures-for-the-2019-novel-coronavirus-COVID-19/](https://txcourts.gov/media/court-procedures-for-the-2019-novel-coronavirus-COVID-19/).

Please contact the Court Clerk, Debora Clark, 214-653-7427 for the reset of hearings, or the Court Coordinator, Jonathan McKinnon, [jmckinnon@dallascourts.org](mailto:jmckinnon@dallascourts.org), regarding any other court matter.

**Juries are currently suspended until May 8, 2020 by order of Dallas County.**

**You will still need to announce for trial so that we may determine the new trial date and appropriate Scheduling Order.**

**Meaningful conversations.** The Court encourages all attorneys and self-represented litigants to have meaningful, good-faith conversations relative to proceedings, telephonic conferences, resets of hearings and trials. All reasonable, good-faith requests shall be seriously considered and accommodated.

**If a lawyer or litigant is sick.** Lawyers or litigants who are sick, or think that they have been exposed to COVID-19, should contact the court to reschedule their hearings and trials. **DO NOT** come to court sick or after a known exposure.

**Non-evidentiary hearings, contested motions and Motions for Summary Judgment shall be by submission, telephone conference or remote videoconferencing. NO in-person appearances will be permitted until further Order of the Court:**

1. No record will be made of the proceedings.
2. For hearings conducted telephonically, the movant must set up a conference call to ensure inclusion of all parties, counsel and the court.
3. Remote videoconferencing is anticipated to be provided in the near future, with the Court as the host, either through Zoom or Teams. The Court will advise when available.
4. Courtesy binders are neither required nor shall be delivered during the Stay Home, Stay Safe Order issued by Dallas County dated March 23, 2020, as it exists and may be amended, and until further direction from this Court.

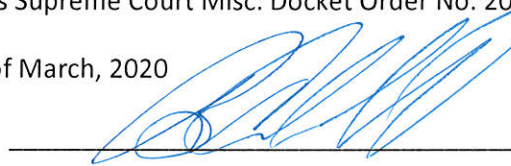
**Evidentiary hearings, Pre-Trials and Trial by Court.**

1. The Court may reset the date and time of hearings, pre-trials and trials by court, that require a record to when remote video-conferencing is available.
2. No in-person proceedings will be held until further Order of the Court.
3. Courtesy binders are neither required nor shall be delivered during the Stay Home, Stay Safe Order issued by Dallas County dated March 23, 2020, as it exists and may be amended, and until further direction from this Court.

**Essential hearings:**

1. Temporary Restraining Orders – Please call court clerk or email court coordinator to set up date and time if possible. In-person appearance is strongly discouraged. Remote appearance through Telephone conferences will be accommodated until video-conferencing available.
2. Temporary Injunctions that are not extended by Agreement may be reset *sua sponte* by the Court pursuant to Texas Supreme Court Misc. Docket Order No. 20-9042.

Signed and dated the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020



Judge Bonnie Lee Goldstein, 44<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court.