

**EMERGENCY STANDING ORDER
FOR THE 193RD DISTRICT COURT OF DALLAS COUNTY
DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS**

Pursuant to the First Emergency Order Regarding the Covid-19 Disaster issued by the Texas Supreme Court, the 193rd District Court will issue the following orders:

1. All jury trials are postponed until May 8, 2020 in accordance with the orders from Dallas County.
2. In an effort to minimize unnecessary contact, worry, and stress amongst the litigants - All pretrial deadlines are hereby suspended for all cases which are set for jury trial in the 193rd. Deadlines will go back in effect once jury trials are reinstated within Dallas county. Parties are encouraged at that time to submit proposed agreed scheduling orders. Obviously, with everything up in the air at this time, please do not make any scheduling agreements until we are certain that we are in the clear and can proceed with business as usual. Parties are encouraged to continue to engage in discussions and conference calls which may continue to facilitate the movement of cases which would not require in person contact.
3. There will be no nonjury trials for the weeks of March 16th and March 23rd. Those matters that have not settled will be reset.
4. In order to prevent Tuesday trial docket calls, those cases that are set for nonjury trials will make their final trial announcements on the Monday prior to the Tuesday trial setting. **If the parties do not make an announcement on Monday by noon, the case may be dismissed, or a default may be taken.** At the time of announcement, the parties need to provide the following information:
 - a. How many witnesses each side will call;
 - b. Estimated length of the trial; and
 - c. If any parties, witnesses or attorneys are exhibiting any symptoms associated with the coronavirus.

Thereafter, the court will determine which case will be called to trial and which case will be on standby. The case that is called to trial will be in court on Tuesday at 9:30 am ready to proceed.

5. All hearings which do not require a record will be held via telephone. The moving party shall set up the call-in number and provide the number to the court and opposing counsel in its notice of hearing.
6. Summary Judgments will be heard by submission only. All summary judgment hearings currently set will now be heard by submission. The notices currently given will now be the submission hearing date.
7. Hearings which require a record will be heard on a case by case basis. The Supreme Court has stated that if it is a nonessential hearing, that the court in its discretion may determine

the need for the hearing, keeping in mind concern for the safety of all parties, court staff and the attorneys.

8. The only hearings that have been deemed to be emergency hearings in the civil courts are TRO's and Temporary Injunction hearings. In an effort to prevent unnecessary parties being present and by virtue of the fact that TRO's by their nature are *ex parte*, in those cases where both sides are present for the TRO, the court will allow the nonmovant to have additional time to prepare affidavits to be submitted in the event that they want to be heard at the TRO request stage.
9. Cases filed during this time period will be under the same scrutiny as before for all newly filed cases. You will not be able to file a new case and then have citation and service postponed during this time period. Issues of due diligence will still apply to all cases filed during this time period.
10. In an effort to keep persons from having to come to court unnecessarily, the DWOP dockets and status conference dockets may be handled by submission with an email to the 193rd Court Coordinator (Cynthia.Willis@dallascounty.org) explaining your request for additional time. The court will then determine if and how much additional time will be given and reset the case for a future hearing.
11. Please do not come to court if you feel sick or may have been exposed to persons who may be sick. These orders are being instituted to protect parties and attorneys from being in contact with each other during this period of time. Please be mindful of this and the court will take into consideration any concerns for parties and their counsel who may need protections during this time.

Signed: March 16, 2020



BRIDGETT N. WHITMORE
193rd District Court Judge