

EMERGENCY STANDING ORDER
RELATIVE TO REMOTE PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE 44TH DISTRICT COURT OF DALLAS COUNTY
DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS

A public health emergency having been declared by state and federal government officials relative to COVID-19, Coronavirus, while the 44th Judicial District Court shall remain OPEN, it is implementing the following modified procedures, 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, Third and Eighth Emergency Orders Regarding the COVID-19, State of Disaster, Misc. Docket No. 20-9042 consistent with the Texas Office of Court Administration guidelines. See txcourts.gov/supreme/administrative-orders/ and txcourts.gov/media/court-procedures-for-the-2019-novel-coronavirus-COVID-19/.

The Texas Supreme Court, Emergency Order No. 1, states that “Subject only to constitutional limitations, all courts in Texas may in any case, civil or criminal – and must to avoid risk to court staff, parties, attorneys, jurors, and the public – without a participant’s consent:

- a. Modify or suspend any and all deadlines and procedures, whether prescribed by statute, rule, or order, for a stated period ending no later than 30 days after the governor’s state of disaster has been lifted.”

The Dallas County District Court judges have issued a joint Emergency Order dated March 27, 2020, to establish uniformity of proceedings, subject to judicial discretion. Accordingly, the 44th District Court issues the following order:

Open Courts - Access – Remote Proceedings:

Dallas County supports the use of Microsoft Teams. For this reason, the 44th Judicial District Court will be using this as the primary platform for remote teleconferencing of proceedings. The Court reserves the right to use Zoom, as licensed by the State, should the circumstances warrant and county support.

The primary email for all communications relative to setting up the remote proceeding and transmission of documents for use during the proceeding shall be 44court@dallascounty.org. No other court email shall be used for communications relative to remote proceedings.

NO EX-PARTE COMMUNICATIONS SHALL BE PERMITTED. One or more parties may request a test run on use of Teams with the Court Reporter. All parties are encouraged to attend such test run of the proceedings. The Judge will not participate in the test run unless all parties are present. Each hearing or trial will be assigned a Team Number for reference.

1. Team DC - ##-##### and the date.
2. Parties will receive an invitation to the meeting to be able to participate via the email on file with the Court.

In any proceeding conducted remotely either by telephonic or technological means or by any other means which may be deemed appropriate by the Court, the moving Party shall, no less than 48 hours in advance of said hearing, email the Court Reporter and the Court Coordinator the email address of all attorneys, (or self represented parties), witnesses and others who may be participating in said proceeding so that information regarding the technological platform, any link, access code thereto and other pertinent information necessary to effectuate the remote connection may be effectuated. If the invitation to the meeting is received less than 48 hours before the proceedings, then no less than one hour before the hearing to ensure inclusion.

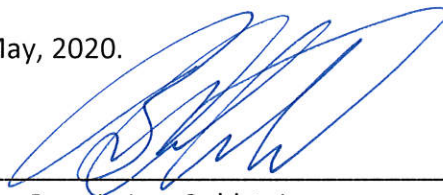
The attorneys and parties are directed to collaborate and transmit to the Court Reporter in a single submission with a copy to all counsel of record and self-represented parties.

Prior to the commencement of the hearing, on the record, the parties must have agreed to hold this hearing remotely via Teams, to acknowledge their agreement to the process and any limitations to the proceeding when on the record.

3. The public is welcome to attend any court proceeding. You may contact the court at 44court@dallascounty.org , to request access to the hearing, no later than one hour before the proceedings to ensure inclusion.

ADMONISHMENT: No recordings of the hearing is to occur by anyone participating or watching from the public. The only recording is the official court reporter's record. Any person recording in violation of this Order may be sanctioned by the Court.

Signed and dated the 4th day of May, 2020.



Judge Bonnie Lee Goldstein,
44th Judicial District Court