



**BEXAR COUNTY PROBATE COURT # 1**

**Oscar J. Kazen, Judge**  
Bexar County Courthouse  
100 Dolorosa Ste. 117  
San Antonio, Texas 78205-3002  
210-335-2190

March 24, 2020

To all members of the Probate Bar,

As promised, I will continue updating you every time something changes. Our Mayor and County Judge have increased the level of restrictions in San Antonio. Both entities have issued a Declaration of Public Health Emergency regarding COVID-19. As a result, and as you may be aware, we are operating on a skeleton crew

Please be advised that pursuant both orders, all persons violating the mandates of those declarations are subject to penalty as noted within their directives, as follows: "Any person who violates this Executive Order may be subject to a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or confinement for a period not exceeding 180 days."

In an effort to comply with their request, **as of 3/25/20, Probate Court 1 will continue in operation subject to the following changes:**

Only attorneys and/or their staff may conduct business in Probate Court 1. Attorneys and their staff must contact the court prior to arrival at the courthouse. Your clients may not accompany you to Probate Court 1, without prior approval of the court. Probate Court 1 will remain open as required by law to conduct Mental Health matters, Temporary Guardianships, Permanent Guardianships of an emergency nature, Temporary Administrations of an urgent or emergency nature and any other matter the court deems necessary.

Although the city and county directives provide some exception for legal services, it is unclear how you may travel back and forth to the courthouse without penalty. If you absolutely must, and cannot fathom any reason otherwise, conduct business personally in Probate Court 1, please contact us so that I may issue a court's directive tailored for your travel. Otherwise, you assume the risk. I remind you, you must contact us before you intend to conduct business personally in Probate Court 1. As promised, I will be conducting office hours at the bench rather than in chambers. I hope you can respect that I have a responsibility to protect my staff. Please

enter through the courtroom and first speak to me directly. Please do not make personal contact with my staff without my approval.

Fortunately, we are fully capable of conducting all court business remotely. We are committed to remain open for such purposes. The court can arrange to conduct hearings either telephonically or tele-“Zoom.” To this extent, the court remains fully functional. All telephonic or tele video conferences must first be scheduled and approved through the court. Given the circumstance, the court reserves the right to postpone hearing in certain matters.

I often say that “rumor seeks to fill the void.” Should you have any comment, question or concern please call us at 210-335-2190.

One last thought; I recently read that systems are having to “pivot” and “adjust.” I believe it is more than just “systems.” I believe that we are each coming together and rising to meet the challenges of our time. As has always been the case, Faith, Family and Friends carry the day... Rely on them.

Sincerely,

Honorable Oscar J. Kazen  
Judge, Probate Court No. 1