199th Judicial District, Hon. Angela Tucker 219th Judicial District, Hon. Jennifer Edgeworth 296th Judicial District, Hon. John Roach, Jr. 366th Judicial District, Hon. Tom Nowak 380th Judicial District, Hon. Benjamin Smith 401st Judicial District, Hon. Mark Rusch 416th Judicial District, Hon. Andrea Thompson



417th Judicial District, Hon. Cynthia Wheless 429th Judicial District, Hon. Jill Willis 468th Judicial District, Hon. Lindsey Wynne 469th Judicial District, Hon. Piper McCraw 470th Judicial District, Hon. Emily Miskel 471st Judicial District, Hon. Andrea Bouressa

## COLLIN COUNTY DISTRICT COURTS JOINT STATEMENT ENCOURAGING MEDIATION

Governor Abbott has declared a state of disaster in all 254 counties in the State of Texas in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Collin County has also enacted various executive orders relating to the state of disaster.

In this extraordinary period, the Collin County District Courts recognize that typical inperson mediations and court hearings may not be able to continue as usual. We continue to encourage the parties to participate in alternative dispute resolution. We also expect compliance with our orders.

If a mediator offers remote/video services, then appearance for remote/video mediation satisfies the parties' court-ordered mediation requirement. Canceling a mediation solely because it is a remote/video mediation and not "in person" is not a valid reason for cancellation.

Parties are also strongly encouraged to mediate temporary issues during the time that courts have limited capacity for hearings.

SIGNED on 3/23/2020.

## 1s/ Emily Miskel

By Hon. Emily Miskel Local Administrative District Judge

## On behalf of:

199th Judicial District, Hon. Angela Tucker 219th Judicial District, Hon. Jennifer Edgeworth 296th Judicial District, Hon. John Roach, Jr. 366th Judicial District, Hon. Tom Nowak 380th Judicial District, Hon. Benjamin Smith 401st Judicial District, Hon. Mark Rusch 416th Judicial District, Hon. Andrea Thompson 417th Judicial District, Hon. Cynthia Wheless 429th Judicial District, Hon. Jill Willis 468th Judicial District, Hon. Lindsey Wynne 469th Judicial District, Hon. Piper McCraw 470th Judicial District, Hon. Emily Miskel 471st Judicial District, Hon. Andrea Bouressa