

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
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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 REGARDING HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS

The Collin County District Courts recognize the concern about a potential outbreak of COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus). The health and safety of employees, attorneys, litigants, and the public remain a paramount concern. The district courts are doing their part to address these concerns in the following manner.

These guidelines are effective from March 16, 2020, until April 1, 2020.

1. **If a Person is Sick**

Everyone who is sick or who thinks they have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact the court to reschedule their hearings or trials.

2. **Non-Essential Court Matters are Rescheduled**

Unless a case is designated below as an Essential Court Matter, all in-person hearings and trials will be rescheduled during the time this order is in effect. Essential Court Matters will proceed. **You must contact each court regarding each setting.**

3. **Essential Court Matters Defined**

- a. Any suits or hearings with jurisdictional deadlines
- b. Family law cases (including IV-D court):
 - i. Texas Family Code Title 4 – protective orders and family violence
 - ii. Texas Family Code Chapter 157, Subchapter H – habeas corpus and writs of attachment for children
 - iii. Texas Family Code Chapters 261-263 – child welfare suits filed by the government
 - iv. Texas Family Code Chapter 33 – judicial bypass
 - v. Texas Family Code Chapter 157 enforcements, only if a respondent is in custody
 - vi. Emergency relief – after reviewing an affidavit, the court may decide to set a hearing on a motion for emergency relief

c. Criminal cases:

- i. Jury trials and dispositive hearings for incarcerated defendants
- ii. Writs of habeas corpus
- iii. Any dispositive hearing where a defendant has requested a speedy trial or speedy disposition
- iv. Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 17 bond hearings
- v. Any time-sensitive hearing required to be conducted by an Appellate Court
- vi. Defendants who are free on bail and represented by counsel need not appear for any announcement setting in person, but the defendant's lawyer is required to email pass slips to the court with the defendant's signature by noon on the appearance date.

d. Civil cases:

- i. Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Chapter 7A protective orders
- ii. Temporary restraining orders and temporary injunctions

e. Juvenile cases:

- i. Texas Family Code Title 3, if a child is in detention
- ii. Unless set for a trial or plea, juvenile respondents and their parents/guardians are not required to appear in person and may call in if they are out of detention and represented by counsel

f. Any other matters that may be designated by a court at its discretion

4. No Jury Trials Except in Essential Court Matters

The district courts will not be calling any jury trials, except for Essential Court Matters, during the time this order is in effect.

5. Uncontested Matters by Submission Only

Beginning immediately, no uncontested matters will be heard. All agreed orders and matters that can be heard by submission should be electronically filed.

6. Electronic Appearances

Courts are developing a plan for electronic appearances which will be rolled out as soon as possible. Many courts already use CourtCall – contact your court for further information.

7. **Contact the Courts**

Look on your court's website for up-to-date contact information. If you have any questions, please email the court coordinator.

Collin County District Courts - https://www.collincountytx.gov/district_courts/

Collin County District Clerk - https://www.collincountytx.gov/district_clerk/

SIGNED on 3/13/2020.

/s/ Emily Miskel

By Hon. Emily Miskel
Local Administrative District Judge
On behalf of:

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