



Judge Kimberly McCary, County Court at Law No. 1  
Judge Robert Ramirez, County Court at Law No. 2  
Judge Jim E. Crouch, County Criminal Court No. 1  
Judge Susan Piel, County Criminal Court No. 2

Judge Forrest Beadle, County Criminal Court No. 3  
Judge Chance Oliver, County Criminal Court No. 4  
Judge Coby Waddill, County Criminal Court No. 5  
Judge Bonnie Robison, Denton County Probate Court

## DENTON COUNTY COURTS AT LAW

### JOINT STATEMENT REGARDING HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS

In consultation with the Texas Department of State Health Services, the Texas Supreme Court, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, the Denton County Courts at Law are doing their part to address the potential outbreak of the COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) 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 by phone or email 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. Any time-sensitive hearing required to be heard by an appellate court.
- c. Juvenile Detention Hearings
- d. Probate Court:
  - i. Mental Health Docket
  - ii. Temporary Restraining Orders hearings
  - iii. Temporary Injunction Hearings
  - iv. Texas Health & Safety Code Chapter 48, Removal Hearings.

- e. 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 plea 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 following day.
- f. Magistrate Court:
  - i. Magistrations
  - ii. Emergency protective orders
  - iii. Mental health processes
- g. Civil Court: Temporary restraining orders
- h. Any other matters that may be designated by a court at its discretion.

#### 4. No Jury Trials Except in Essential Court Matters

The county 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.

County Court at Law No. 1 (Sitting as Juvenile Court):

<https://dentoncounty.gov/Departments/County-Courts/County-Court-at-Law-1>

County Court at Law No. 2:

<https://dentoncounty.gov/Departments/County-Courts/County-Court-at-Law-2>

Probate Court:

<https://dentoncounty.gov/Departments/County-Courts/Probate-Court>

Magistrate Court:

<https://dentoncounty.gov/Departments/County-Courts/Magistrate-Court>

County Criminal Court No. 1:

<https://dentoncounty.gov/Departments/County-Courts/County-Criminal-Court1>

County Criminal Court No. 2:

<https://dentoncounty.gov/Departments/County-Courts/County-Criminal-Court2>

County Criminal Court No. 3:

<https://dentoncounty.gov/Departments/County-Courts/County-Criminal-Court3>

County Criminal Court No. 4:

<https://dentoncounty.gov/Departments/County-Courts/County-Criminal-Court4>

County Criminal Court No. 5

<https://dentoncounty.gov/Departments/County-Courts/County-Criminal-Court5>

County Court Administration:

<https://dentoncounty.gov/Departments/County-Courts/County-Court-Administration>

SIGNED on 3/13/2020



By Honorable Coby Waddill  
County Criminal Court No. 5  
Local Administrative Judge