



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

SECOND AMENDED JOINT STATEMENT REGARDING HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS

Following the guidance from the Texas Supreme Court, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, Office of Court Administration, and in conjunction with Denton County Public Health, the Denton County District Courts recognize the concerns about COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus). As such, the health and safety of the public, and all employees, are of utmost concern and these temporary guidelines are hereby established to address these concerns in the following manner:

These guidelines are effective from March 24, 2020, until May 8, 2020 unless extended.

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

- a. **County Court at Law #2 (Civil) - You must contact the court regarding any setting scheduled during this effective timeframe.** Non-Essential Court Matters will be handled by allowable means. Essential Court Matters will proceed (by remote means if possible). Jury trials will be rescheduled.
- b. **Criminal/Probate Courts** - 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 (by remote means if possible). If you wish to schedule a hearing for a non-essential matter, you must contact the court during this effective timeframe.

3. Essential Court Matters

Including, but not limited to:

Civil & Probate Law

- Temporary restraining orders/temporary injunctions;
- Juvenile detention hearings; and
- Mental health proceedings.

Criminal Law

- Writs of habeas corpus;
- Any time-sensitive hearing required to be conducted by an Appellate Court;
- Pleas dockets will be limited to pleas wherein the defendant will be released from jail as a result of the plea (TDCJ pleas are NOT essential). The plea hearing will be conducted remotely as specified by the presiding court. For specific details, please contact the Court Coordinator in the court the case is assigned to or the Denton County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association; and
- Bond condition and compliance hearings.

Magistrate Court

- Criminal magistration;
- Emergency protective orders;
- Mental health processes.

4. Announcement Dockets and Uncontested Matters

Announcement dockets are non-essential and shall be reset. Defendants who are free on bail and represented by counsel shall not appear for any announcement settings in person. All resets will be emailed to the attorneys and bonding companies. No pass slips will be required during the duration of these guidelines. All self-represented individuals must contact their bonding company and the Court Coordinator in the court your case is filed to obtain a reset date. DO NOT appear in person at court.

All agreed orders may be electronically filed.

5. No Jury Trials

The county courts will not be calling any jury trials during the time these guidelines are in effect.

6. Electronic Appearances

As necessary, courts are conducting electronic hearings for essential and non-essential matters using the platform Zoom. Contact the court coordinator for specific details.

7. Contact the Courts

Please refer to the Court's website for more information. If you have any questions, please email the court administrators directly.

**** PLEASE NOTE THE ABOVE TEMPORARY GUIDELINES
MAY BE REVISED AT ANYTIME****

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. I:

<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 March 25, 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Coby Waddill', is written over a horizontal line.

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