



JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 2
FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS

TEMPORARY STANDING ORDERS REGARDING COVID-19
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT, PRECINCT 2, FORT BEND COUNTY

JOEL C. CLOUSER, SR.
Judge

(281) 403-8080

These temporary orders are in accordance with Governor Abbott's March 13, 2020 declared state of disaster in the State of Texas due to the imminent threat of the COVID-19 pandemic. They are also in accordance with the resulting Emergency Orders of the Supreme Court of Texas and the Office of Court Administration (OCA).

All scheduled court proceedings prior to April 1, 2020, except for "essential court proceedings" in the Justice of the Peace Court, Precinct 2 of Fort Bend County (JP2), will be reset to another date after April 19, 2020.

Essential court proceedings will include: writs of re-entry, writs of retrieval, writs of restoration, issuance of burial transit permits, repair and remedy cases that materially affect the physical health or safety of a tenant, issuance of assault family/domestic violence arrest warrants, mental health warrants and transfers, peace bonds, tow hearings.

To further limit exposure and protect our citizens and court participants, the following proceedings will be postponed until after April 30, 2020: No jury trials, class "C" misdemeanor warrants will not be executed, no criminal trials, no traffic arraignments, no truant conduct proceedings, no civil mediations and no pre-trial conferences. Notifications of when these proceedings will be rescheduled or reset will be sent to each litigant by the court.

EVICCTIONS

In accordance with the Texas Supreme Court Eviction Order on March 19, 2020, all future eviction settings for March 24, March 26, March 31 will be reset after April 19, 2020. All deadlines are paused until the expiration of the order. Notices will immediately be sent to all litigants in these cases.

Also in accordance with that order, writs of possession for judgments granted prior to March 20, 2020 shall issue, but shall not execute (no tenant move-outs), including the posting of the written warning notice until after April 26, 2020. Eviction cases can be filed, but Eviction petitions/citations will not be served until after April 19, 2020. The 10-21-day trial date window is paused until the expiration of this order. An exception exists if the plaintiff files a petition stating that there is imminent threat of harm to the plaintiff, the plaintiff's employees, or other tenants, or criminal activity. If this court finds that the sworn petition has merit, the court will create a procedure and timeframe for the case to proceed in a manner that protects health and safety.

WEDDINGS

In-person wedding ceremonies will be performed, with restrictions. Wedding parties must not exceed the ten-person maximum and will not be allowed to group together or be lined up awaiting a ceremony or linger after the ceremony.

The aforementioned dates specified in these Temporary Standing Orders are subject to be extended as the Governor, the Supreme Court of Texas and the Office of Court Administration deem necessary to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic.

 Date 3-20-2020
Judge Joel C. Clouser, Sr., Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2