



122ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
GALVESTON COUNTY
GALVESTON COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER
600 59TH STREET, SUITE 4304
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77551
409-766-2275
FAX 409-770-6265

John Ellisor
JUDGE

Becky Hernandez
Court Coordinator

Connie Chan
Official Court Reporter
409-770-5169

TO: District Court Judges
District Clerk
District Attorney
Sheriff
IT

DATE: 03/18/2020

RE: Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

MEMO

In light of the current health care crisis and in conformity with the direction of the Office of Court Administration, the Texas Supreme Court and national, state and local authorities, *the District Courts of Galveston County are suspending and delaying all non-essential proceedings, including jury trials, effective Monday, March 23, 2020, through the end of April 2020.*

- No trials or hearings will occur during this period unless otherwise notified by the Court;
- Attorneys are encouraged to attend any essential proceedings* by telephone or video conferencing if possible. Please contact the Court to determine if this may be arranged;
- Bonded defendants are not required to come to court unless the proceeding is a plea or hearing where their participation is required;
- Family cases shall be proved up by affidavit of testimony through E-filing;
- Court personnel are encouraged to work remotely from home to the extent possible;
- For incarcerated defendants, the D.A.'s office, Sheriff's office, IT and defense attorneys are encouraged to develop a procedure for pleas by videoconference remotely from the jail; and
- No one who has potentially been exposed to the corona virus, is showing symptoms of illness or been diagnosed with the virus should appear at the Justice Center.

FROM: JOHN ELLISOR, District Court Administrative Judge

*Writs of Habeas Corpus, Temporary Restraining Orders, Pleas where the defendant is to be released from jail (by way of example).

Cc: County Courts at Law, Personal Bond Office & bonding companies