

Hon. George Barnstone  
County Civil Court at Law No.1



Hon. LaShawn A. Williams  
County Civil Court at Law No.3

Hon. Jim F. Kovach  
County Civil Court at Law No.2

Hon. Lesley Briones  
County Civil Court at Law No. 4

**SECOND EMERGENCY**

§  
§  
§  
§  
§

**IN THE COUNTY CIVIL COURTS**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

**04/24/2020**

**FOR HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS**

**SECOND EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING  
THE COVID-19 STATE OF DISASTER**

Governor Abbott has declared a state of disaster in all 254 counties in the State of Texas in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Supreme Court of Texas and the Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas have issued eleven (11) Emergency Orders Regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster, as of April 24, 2020 (the “*Supreme Court Orders*”). The Supreme Court Orders are available at [www.txcourts.gov](http://www.txcourts.gov). The Supreme Court Orders state that all courts in Texas, subject only to Constitutional limitations, must avoid risk to court staff, parties, attorneys, jurors, and the public. Accordingly, as of the date of this Order, the Harris County Civil Courthouse remains closed to the public for all “non-essential cases.”

**THEREFORE**, given the ongoing COVID-19 state of disaster, the severity of the risk of spreading COVID-19, limited staffing, facility restrictions, and the aforementioned governing Supreme Court Orders, the Harris County Civil Courts at Law hereby **ORDER**:

1. All items addressed in the First Emergency Order Regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster signed March 20, 2020 (the “*First Order*”) shall be extended to Friday, May 15, 2020, unless otherwise extended or terminated.
2. Harris County Civil Court at Law judges will continue reviewing and ruling on all filings and pleadings while this Order is in effect, and are available for remote hearings and non-jury trials. All motions must be placed on the Submission Docket, and requests for a remote oral hearing or remote non-jury trial may be filed with the Court. Please note that in accordance with Constitutional requirements for the public’s right of access to court proceedings, all remote proceedings will be publicly available on each Court’s live streaming feed on the Harris County Clerk’s website.
3. Parties are responsible for monitoring the Courts’ websites and dockets applicable to their cases. Notices mailed during this period may be delayed.
4. To the extent this Order contradicts the Local Rules, this Order applies and modifies the Local Rules for the period this Order is in effect.
5. Nothing in this Order affects the discretion and ability of each Harris County Civil Court at Law judge to further adjust and/or modify each Court’s own dockets and vary this protocol on a case-by-case basis.

6. Nothing in this Order affects any other applicable state or federal emergency orders, including, but not limited to, the relief granted by current or future Supreme Court Orders or the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).

*Any questions about this Order should be sent via email to the Courts' Trial Coordinators.*

**Dated: April 24, 2020**



Judge George Barnstone  
County Civil Court at Law No. 1



Judge LaShawn A. Williams  
County Civil Court at Law No. 3



Judge Jim F. Kovach  
County Civil Court at Law No. 2



Judge Lesley Briones  
County Civil Court at Law No. 4