



# 81<sup>ST</sup> AND 218<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT COURTS

## ATASCOSA, FRIO, KARNES LA SALLE & WILSON COUNTIES

March 18, 2020

Re: Directive Limiting Civil Settings by Personal Appearance in District Court.

In the interest of the safety and welfare of the public, attorneys, clients, and courthouse staff, the 81<sup>st</sup> and 218<sup>th</sup> County Civil District Courts have made the following decisions regarding the civil dockets in Atascosa, Frio, Karnes, La Salle and Wilson Counties.

Beginning Friday, March 20, 2020, through Friday, April 3, 2020, personal appearance at civil dockets will be limited to "essential matters."

- Suits brought under Title 4 of the Texas Family Code -- applications for protective orders involving family violence;
- Suits brought under Chapters 261 and 262, Texas Family Code -- removal hearings in suits brought by governmental entities for the protection of a child/children;
- Suits brought under Chapter 33, Texas Family Code -- judicial bypass cases;
- Suits brought under Chapters 51-60, Texas Family Code – Texas Juvenile Justice Code, where the juvenile is in custody;
- Suits brought under Chapter 160, Texas Family Code -- gestational surrogacy cases;
- Suits brought under Chapter 157, Texas Family Code -- writs of habeas corpus, writs of attachment for children, and enforcement actions where a Respondent is incarcerated;
- Suits or hearings involving jurisdictional deadlines that cannot be waived or continued, and
- Requests for Temporary Restraining Orders and Temporary Injunctions.

The District Judges retain the inherent discretion to add or remove a case from the civil dockets.

To the extent allowed by the Texas Supreme Court's [First Emergency Order Regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster](#), all deadlines and procedures for nonessential civil matters, whether prescribed by statute, rule, or order, are stayed, until further order, for a period ending not later than 30 days after the Governor's state of disaster has been lifted, except to the extent that, after notice and hearing, the Court lifts the stay in individual civil matters.

If a party, attorney, staff member, witness or spectator, exhibits any COVID-19 symptoms, including fever, coughing, or sneezing, or has a particularized reason to believe they have been exposed to COVID-19, the Court ORDERS them to NOT APPEAR, but notify the Court Coordinator at 830-769-3750, or [coordinator@81-218.txcourts.gov](mailto:coordinator@81-218.txcourts.gov), for rescheduling.

It is expected that a Directive will be made concerning allowing parties, attorneys and witnesses to appear by remotely, or by affidavit, for nonessential civil matters.