

**Centex Child Protection Courts 1 & 2
Third Administrative Judicial Region
P O Box 1154
Belton, Texas 76513
Tel. 254-933-6726**

**Dallas Sims
Christopher L. Cornish
Associate Judges**

**Billy Ray Stubblefield
Regional Presiding Judge**

March 16, 2020

RE: COURT PROCEDURES

To: Attorneys, DFPS, CASA, and GALS

As many of you are aware the Supreme Court of Texas has issued an emergency order concerning conduct of court hearings and Judge Adams has issued an Administrative Order as to the conduct of court hearings in Bell County in accordance with the provisions of the Emergency Order. These orders are attached for your review.

In accordance with the requirements of the Emergency Order and our local Administrative Order, the following procedures will be followed in the Child Protection Courts:

1. All non-essential CPS hearings will be postponed until after April 10, 2020. Our Court will hear Adversary hearings only;
2. Between April 10, 2020 and May 8, 2020, we will conduct non-essential hearings for those parties that wish not to attend, or to attend telephonically or by video conference. No in person appearances for parties or witnesses will be allowed for these non-essential hearings. Upon request by any party, non-essential hearings shall be rescheduled to a date after May 8, 2020. The court will also enter any agreed order that may be submitted by the parties without the necessity of a hearing;
3. Litigants, Attorneys, and any participant may appear telephonically for any hearing;
4. The Court shall permit documentary evidence as indicated in the Emergency Order;
5. Following the expiration of the Emergency Order on May 8, 2020, or later if extended, normal Court operations will resume.

