



STATE DISTRICT COURTS
DENTON COUNTY, TEXAS

- Sherry Shipman, 16th District Court Bruce McFarling, 362nd District Court Jonathan Bailey, 431st District Court
Steve Burgess, 158th District Court Margaret Barnes, 367th District Court Tiffany Haertling, 442nd District Court
Brody Shanklin, 211th District Court Doug Robison, 393rd District Court Lee Ann Breeding, 462nd District Court

DENTON COUNTY TEMPORARY STANDING ORDER REGARDING PARENT-CHILD VISITATION AND OTHER IN-PERSON VISITS IN ALL CHILD PROTECTION CASES

Following the guidance from the Texas Supreme Court, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, Office Of Court Administration, the Children’s Commission and in conjunction with Denton County Public Health, the Denton County District Courts recognize the concerns about COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus). As such, the health and safety of the public, and all employees, are of utmost concern and this Temporary Standing Order is hereby entered to address these concerns.

The Courts finds that the following orders are in the best interest of the children currently in the Temporary Managing Conservatorship of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services under the jurisdiction of Denton County District Courts.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

- 1. All previously ordered in-person parent-child visitations, sibling visitations, Attorney Ad Litem (AAL) and/or Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) visits, and DFPS visits scheduled to take place March 24, 2020 through May 1, 2020 are HEREBY ORDERED SUSPENDED in an effort to contain the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and to protect all parties. If there are cases with extraordinary circumstances, requiring in-person visitation, the parties may petition the court and request a hearing. If a hearing is set, the parties may appear by remote means.
2. The Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), AALs and GALs are HEREBY ORDERED to make arrangements for telephonic, Zoom, Skype, or FaceTime (or other video platform) communications in place of in-person visitation from March 24, 2020 through May 1, 2020.
3. This ORDER shall apply to children who are in relative or fictive kin placements, as well as those in foster placements and residential treatment centers.

This Temporary Order is effective from March 24, 2020, through May 1, 2020 (unless modified).

Signed this 24th day of March, 2020.

/s/ Brody Shanklin,
Local Administrative Judge