



## JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURTS DENTON COUNTY, TEXAS

Joe Holland, Precinct 1

James R. DePiazza, Precinct 2

James Kerbow, Precinct 3

Harris Hughey, Precinct 4

Mike Oglesby, Precinct 5

Chris Lopez, Precinct 6

### DENTON COUNTY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURTS TEMPORARY GUIDELINES REGARDING HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS Revised 2 April 2020

In conjunction with the Denton County Health Department and the Office of Court Administration, the Denton County Justices of the Peace 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 these temporary guidelines are hereby established to address these concerns in the following manner:

These guidelines are effective from 16 March 2020, until 1 June 2020.

#### 1. If a Person is Sick

Everyone who is sick or who thinks they have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact the court to reschedule their hearings or trials. These individuals should not appear in court.

#### 2. Non-Essential Court Matters are Rescheduled

Unless a case is designated below as an Essential Court Matter, all in-person hearings and trials will be rescheduled during the time this order is in effect. Essential Court Matters will proceed. **You must contact each court regarding any setting scheduled during the effective timeframe.** Hearings will commence the week of 1 June 2020.

#### 3. Essential Court Matters for Justices Courts are:

- a. Writs of Re-Entry
- b. Writs of Restoration
- c. Repair and Remedy
- d. Emergency Detention Warrants
- e. Criminal Magistration

#### 4. Eviction Cases

Eviction case filings will be accepted, but not processed and handled in conjunction with rules set in place by the Supreme Court and Office of Court Administration. Current guidelines are:

- a. No citations issued until 20 April 2020.

- b. No writs of possession postings until 27 April 2020.
- c. Hearings to commence the week of 3 May 2020.
- d. No filing of any nonpayment cases in conjunction with the CARES Act until 25 July 2020. This includes:
  - public housing, project-based section 8, Housing Choice Vouchers, LIHTC, etc.
  - rural voucher program
  - properties with federally-backed mortgages (HUD, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac)

**5. Uncontested Matters and Prove-Up's by Submission Only**

Justice Courts that process Default Judgments on Debt Claim cases without an oral hearing, will continue to process these cases if the answer deadline was prior to 13 March 2020. For cases in which the answer due date was 13 March or later, no motions for default judgments will be considered until 1 June 2020 in accordance with the Texas Supreme Court's Eighth Emergency Order Regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster (Misc. Docket No. 20-9051).

**6. Traffic/Criminal Citations**

All "Appear By" dates on any traffic or Class C Misdemeanor citation is extended to 1 June 2020 or the date on your citation, whichever is later. You can also contact the court for options to resolve your citation without the need to appear in person.

**7. Contact the Courts**

Please refer to the Court's website for more information. If you have any questions, please contact the respective court directly.

**\*\* PLEASE NOTE THE ABOVE TEMPORARY GUIDELINES MAY BE REVISED AT ANYTIME.**

SIGNED on April 2, 2020.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. DePiazza", written over a horizontal line.

The Honorable James R. DePiazza  
Local Administrative Judge

On Behalf of:

- Hon. Joe Holland, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1
- Hon. James Kerbow, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 3
- Hon. Harris Hughey, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 4
- Hon. Mike Oglesby, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 5
- Hon. Chris Lopez, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 6