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MIKE SWANSON
DISTRICT JUDGE
143RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
LOVING, REEVES, & WARD COUNTIES

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**TEMPORARY EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING PROCEEDINGS
BEFORE THE 143RD DISTRICT COURT
OF LOVING COUNTY, REEVES COUNTY AND WARD COUNTY, TEXAS**

State officials, and other appropriate agencies, have considered the implementation of measures necessary to address the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Governor Abbot has issued a disaster proclamation. The Texas Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals, have issued emergency orders modifying and suspending certain provisions which relate to the administration of court proceedings. See Supreme Court *Misc. Docket No. 20-9042* and Court of Criminal Appeals *Misc. Docket No. 20-007* (March 13, 2020). The Office of Court Administration (OCA) and the Presiding Judges for the eleven Administrative Judicial Regions of Texas have promulgated recommendations and guidelines fore the courts to consider in pursuing effective docket control and court management during this time of uncertainty.

In light of the aforementioned orders, declarations and recommendations, and being mindful of the Judiciary's responsibility to invoke procedures that are necessary to protect the health and safety of the public under the existing circumstances,

IT IS ORDERED that, excepting essential matters as set forth herein, all trial settings scheduled in the 143rd Judicial District Court for the period of March 16, 2020 through May 1, 2020 are VACATED and shall be rescheduled to a later date.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that to the extent practicable, and consistent with the above directives and recommendations, the Court shall schedule the following essential matters during the stated period of this order:

- a) Arraignments (if not waived), guilty pleas, probation revocations, writs of habeas corpus, and bond requests involving defendants who are in custody;
- b) Applications for the appointment of counsel submitted by indigent defendants who are in custody;
- c) Applications for temporary restraining orders and temporary injunctions;
- d) Suits brought under Chapter 157, Texas Family Code, writs of habeas corpus, writs of attachment for children, and enforcement actions in which a Respondent is incarcerated;
- e) Summary Judgment motions by submission;
- f) Other applications for emergency relief;
- g) Any hearings requiring only the presence of counsel, i.e. hearings for entry of orders, etc., and


h) Any other hearing determined by a court to be necessary to the administration of justice.

These scheduling limitations shall remain in effect through May 1, 2020, or upon further order of the Court. The Court may issued amended or supplemental orders.

All attorneys **shall** inquire as to whether any party or necessary participant to a proceeding knows of another participant who has, COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms, or a fever, cough or sneezing, or has recently visited an area with a known outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. If any of these conditions apply, the attorney **shall** contact the Court for guidance in proceedings before the scheduled hearing.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding a specific case, please contact the Court in which it is pending.

SIGNED this 2nd day of April, 2020.



MIKE SWANSON
Judge, 143rd Judicial District of Texas