

FIRST STANDING ORDER REGARDING CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) MITIGATION AND ALL JUSTICES OF THE PEACE IN EL PASO COUNTY (Order No. 01)

This Order is being issued in response to the recent outbreak of novel coronavirus in the United States and the State of Texas. The World Health Organization has declared that COVID 19 qualifies as a global pandemic, having spread across more than 120 countries with more than 4,000 confirmed cases in the United States. El Paso County has been closely monitoring the outbreak of novel coronavirus (which causes the disease designated as COVID-19), including careful monitoring of the developing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"). The CDC has described the outbreak in the United States as a "rapidly evolving situation and is providing continuously updated guidance as to the appropriate community response to COVID-1 9 as conditions worsen. The CDC's guidance includes multiple types of mitigation strategies generally aimed at reducing or avoiding exposure to infected individuals

THEREFORE, given the severity of the risk of the spread of COVID-19, and taking into consideration matters of public health, while reducing the size of public gatherings, the Justices of the Peace Courts of El Paso County ORDER:

- 1. All civil and criminal bench and jury trials scheduled to begin on any date from now through April 16, 2020, are continued, to a date to be reset by each Court. Each Court will contact litigants regarding a reset date as soon as practicable for the Court, with the interest of everyone's health in mind;
- 2. Court Dockets scheduled to begin on any date from now through April 16, 2020, are continued, to a date be reset by each Court. Each Court will contact litigants regarding a reset date as soon as practicable for the Court;
- 3. Court Dockets on any date from now through April 16, 2020 will be limited to only "essential court proceedings." Essential court proceedings shall be limited to writs of re-entry, writs of retrieval, writs of restoration, magistration of defendants in custody of defendants in custody and of fugitives from justice (in or out of custody), and repair and remedy cases that materially affect the physical health or safety of a tenant;
- 4. Each Court will remain open during regular business hours (subject to further review), continue to accept filings, service constituents, and review all matters filed by submission.

Because the current situation remains fluid and evolving, the Court may modify and/or extend the terms of this Order. Otherwise, this Order will remain in effect through April 16, 2020, and then will expire.

Furthermore, if a party or an attorney is exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms, including fever, coughing or sneezing, or if one believes he or she may have been exposed to COVID-19, the Courts encourage those involved to make arrangements with each Court telephonically or electronically.

SIGNED, ENTERED AND ORDERED this 18th day of March, 2020.

Judge Josh Herrera

Co-Chur of Council of Justices

Justices of the Peace in El Paso County, TX

Judge Robert Pearson

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Judge Bryan J. Haggerty

J.P. Precinct *Two* 4641 Cohen, Ste. A El Paso, TX 79936 (915) 751-7575

Judge Josh Herrera

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Judge Enedina Serna

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