CELESTE HUFFSTETLER Court Coordinator

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JUDGE JACK EWING COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 3 GALVESTON COUNTY

05/29/2020

STANDING ORDER FOR TEMPORARY COURT PROCEDURES FOR COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 3

This Temporary Standing Order is in response to the additional health and safety measures that are needed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This Temporary Standing Order shall remain in effect beginning June 1, 2020 and shall remain in effect until further order of the Court.

MISDEMEANOR BOND DOCKETS

- (1.) Misdemeanor Bond Dockets will be conducted at 8:30 am and 1:30 pm Monday-Friday.
- (2.) Only attorneys and pro-se defendants are to appear at the docket setting. Defendants represented by counsel are <u>not</u> to appear for docket settings.
- (3.) Attorneys do not have to appear if they have a plea agreement, an agreed dismissal or other arrangements approved by the Court. Notice of the plea agreement, dismissal or agreed arrangements must be given to the Court prior to the time of the docket setting.
- (4.) Only ten (10) people will be allowed in the Courtroom at a time.
- (5.) Hand sanitizer will be available at the entrance of the courtroom and at each counsel table.
- (6.) Attorneys are to check in with the Court Coordinator. The Bailiff will monitor and limit the number of people in the courtroom and that proper social distancing is being followed.
- (7.) Pleas will be set for a specific date and time by the Court Coordinator.

CIVIL CASES

- (1.) Pre-Trial Conferences set for June are cancelled.
- (2.) Pre-Trial Motions, Discovery Motions and Disposition Motions shall be set for submission unless the Court determines an oral hearing is necessary. If an oral hearing is necessary, the Court will give notice of the date and time of such hearing and such hearing shall be conducted by either teleconference or Zoom unless an in person hearing is deemed by the Court to be necessary.
- (3.) Attorneys and parties will not be required to appear in person for status conferences. Instead, the Court is ordering that the parties submit a proposed agreed Docket Control Order by the date and time designated by the Court for the status conference.

If the parties are unable to submit a proposed agreed Docket Control Order then each party is to complete the Status Conference Form provided by the Court by no later than the designated date and time of the Status Conference.

Failure to timely submit a proposed agreed Docket Control Order or Status Conference Form will result in such case being placed on the Court's Dismissal Docket.

FAMILY CASES

- (1.) The prior order entered by the Courts on May 1, 2020 shall be extended through July 3. 2020 with regard to prove up of uncontested divorces.
- (2.) Default hearings on Family cases that involve termination of parental rights or possession and access to children or conservatorship shall be in person and set for hearings by the Court Coordinator. Default hearings not involving termination of parental rights, conservatorship or possession and access of children may be conducted by Zoom.
- (3.) Attorneys and parties will not be required to appear in person for status conferences. Instead, the Court is ordering that the parties submit a proposed agreed Docket Control Order by the date and time designated by the Court for the status conference.
 - If the parties are unable to submit a proposed agreed Docket Control Order then each party is to complete the Status Conference Form provided by the Court by no later than the designated date and time of the Status Conference.

Failure to timely submit a proposed agreed Docket Control Order or Status Conference Form will result in such case being placed on the Court's Dismissal Docket.

JURY TRIALS

There will be no Jury Trials scheduled for June or July of 2020.

JACK EWING, JUDGE PRESIDING