

**SUPPLEMENT TO 507<sup>TH</sup> POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**  
**PROVE-UP BY SUBMISSION**  
**March 16, 2020**

On March 13, 2020, the Texas Supreme Court issued its *First Emergency Order Regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster*, which is attached hereto. The order allows Texas courts, for a period of time that ends on May 8, 2020, to consider as evidence sworn statements made out of court. **Therefore, effective immediately through May 8, 2020, the 507th District Court will allow prove-up by submission of sworn statements as follows:**

1. Parties may prove up the following types of matters by submission of sworn testimony: waiver divorces; adult name changes; adult adoptions; agreed final orders, including those based upon mediated settlement agreements; all other agreed orders; and motions for summary judgment.
2. Each such sworn statement should establish the necessary elements of each provision of the order that is being proved up.
3. If the person making the sworn statement is not fluent in the English language, the sworn statement should be made in the language in which the person is fluent. Such a sworn statement should then be translated into English by a properly certified translator; and the sworn statement should be filed along with the English translation and the certificate of translation.
4. The sworn statement should be accompanied by the respective order being proved up.
5. An agreed order proved up by submission in this manner must include the signatures of all parties. Do not sign for a party by permission.

As the COVID-19 situation continues to change, the 507th District Court may make additional modifications of its procedures. In particular, we are hoping to have the ability to take testimony by videoconferencing in the near future, so the court may then be able to hear contested matters without in-person testimony being given.

Most importantly, everyone here at the 507th District Court hopes that attorneys, litigants, and witnesses stay safe and well.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julia A. Maldonado". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

Julia A. Maldonado  
Presiding Judge  
507th Family District Court

## **IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS**

---

---

Misc. Docket No. 20-9042

---

---

## **IN THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS OF TEXAS**

---

---

Misc. Docket No. 20-007

---

---

### **FIRST EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING THE COVID-19 STATE OF DISASTER**

---

---

#### **ORDERED that:**

1. Governor Abbott has declared a state of disaster in all 254 counties in the State of Texas in response to the imminent threat of the COVID-19 pandemic. This order is issued pursuant to Section 22.0035(b) of the Texas Government Code.
2. Subject only to constitutional limitations, all courts in Texas may in any case, civil or criminal—and must to avoid risk to court staff, parties, attorneys, jurors, and the public—without a participant’s consent:
  - a. Modify or suspend any and all deadlines and procedures, whether prescribed by statute, rule, or order, for a stated period ending no later than 30 days after the Governor’s state of disaster has been lifted;
  - b. Allow or require anyone involved in any hearing, deposition, or other proceeding of any kind—including but not limited to a party, attorney, witness, or court reporter, but not including a juror—to participate remotely, such as by teleconferencing, videoconferencing, or other means;

c. Consider as evidence sworn statements made out of court or sworn testimony given remotely, out of court, such as by teleconferencing, videoconferencing, or other means;

d. Conduct proceedings away from the court's usual location, but in the county of venue, and only with reasonable notice and access to the participants and the public;

e. Require every participant in a proceeding to alert the court if the participant has, or knows of another participant who has, COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms, or a fever, cough or sneezing;

f. Take any other reasonable action to avoid exposing court proceedings to the threat of COVID-19.

3. All courts in Texas may extend the statute of limitations in any civil case for a stated period ending no later than 30 days after the Governor's state of disaster has been lifted.

4. This Order is effective as of March 13, 2020, and expires May 8, 2020, unless extended by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

5. The Clerk of the Supreme Court is directed to:

a. post a copy of this Order on [www.txcourts.gov](http://www.txcourts.gov);

b. file a copy of this Order with the Secretary of State; and

c. send a copy of this Order to the Governor, the Attorney General, and each member of the Legislature.

6. The State Bar of Texas is directed to take all reasonable steps to notify members of the Texas bar of this Order.

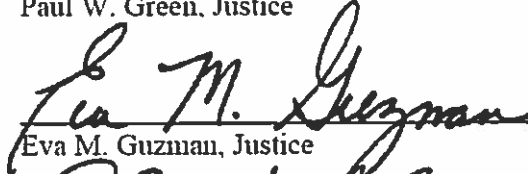
Dated: March 13, 2020



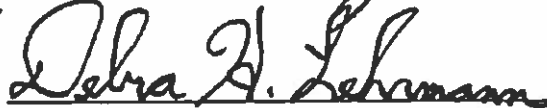
Nathan L. Hecht, Chief Justice



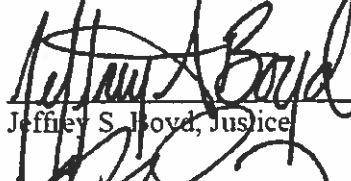
Paul W. Green, Justice



Eva M. Guzman, Justice



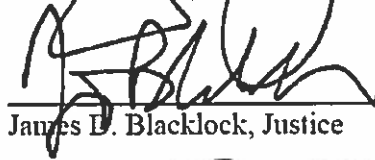
Debra H. Lehrmann, Justice



Jeffrey S. Boyd, Justice



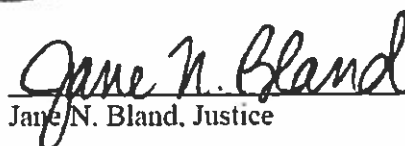
John P. Devine, Justice



James D. Blacklock, Justice



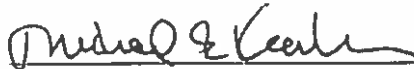
J. Brent Busby, Justice



Jane N. Bland, Justice



Sharon Keller, Presiding Judge

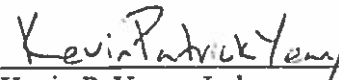


Michael Keasler, Judge



Barbara P. Hervey, Judge

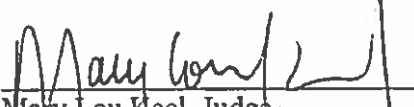
Bert Richardson, Judge



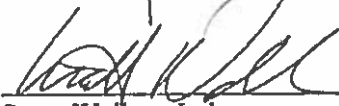
Kevin P. Yearry, Judge



David Newell, Judge



Mary Lou Keel, Judge



Scott Walker, Judge



Michelle M. Slaughter, Judge