

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE CCL#2 DOCKET

These instructions are issued in accordance with Administrative Order signed by Judge Jack Jones dated January 3, 2022, a copy of which is attached hereto.

These temporary procedures will begin on January 10, 2022 and end January 31, 2022 unless extended or modified.

PLEAS IN CASES IN WHICH THE DEFENDANT IS OUT ON BOND

Defendants should check in with the court coordinator upon arrival. If the case is not going to proceed to plea, counsel should file continuance prior to the day of the plea. If the case is going to proceed to plea, plea paperwork should be completed and delivered to the court coordinator prior to the time of the plea. Defense counsel may appear remotely or at the courthouse. Remote appearance options will be available at the courthouse as well.

AS BEFORE, THIS PROCESS WILL REQUIRE GREATER COMMUNICATION THAN THE USUAL PROCESS. PLEASE KEEP THE COURT COORDINATOR ADVISED AS TO THE STATUS OF CASES.

EVERYONE APPEARING IN COURT WILL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER, WHICH INCLUDES THE WEARING OF A MASK, AS WELL AS OTHER PRECAUTIONS.

PLEAS WITH DEFENDANTS IN JAIL

Jail pleas will proceed in the same manner as the past few months. The defendant will appear remotely from the jail. Defense counsel may appear remotely or at the courthouse. Remote appearance options will be available at the courthouse as well.

PRETRIAL AND REVOCATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attorneys should use Case Setting Forms and Agreed Motions for Continuance to make pretrial and revocation announcements. Defendants who are represented by counsel are not required to appear for the 1:15 Pretrial Docket or the 1:20 revocation announcement docket.

PRETRIAL MATTERS OTHER THAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Defendants are required to appear in person for all pretrial matters that require a record, such as PBR and pretrial motions.

Defendants are required to appear in person for 8:30. First Appearance Docket Call.

JURY TRIALS

Jury Trials may proceed subject to the limitations set out in the Administrative Order. **Defendants are required to appear in person for the 1:30 Jury Trial Docket Call unless the case has been moved prior to the docket call.**

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF BELL

FILED

2022 JAN -3 PM 4: 06

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

JOANNA STATION
DISTRICT COURT
BELL COUNTY
CLERK
BY *[Signature]*

The recent spike in infections of Covid-19 in Bell County in the general public and in the employees of the County and the jail inmate population has resulted in a recommendation of the Bell County Public Health District and the Bell County Judge that the courts consider restriction of live hearings and implementation of procedures to protect the health and safety of persons who are allowed to appear in the courts.

Therefore, pursuant to the inherent powers of the Bell County Courts, this Administrative Order is promulgated to protect the parties, attorneys, staff, and all others who come before the Courts of Bell County.

IT IS ORDERED that beginning January 10, 2022, the Bell County District Courts, the Bell County Courts at Law, and the Bell County Justice of the Peace Courts will conduct all hearings remotely unless the Judge of the Court determines that the hearing is essential and that it is impossible or impractical to conduct the hearing remotely.

All persons who are allowed to appear in court shall wear masks and maintain social distancing at all times. Any person who has been diagnosed with Covid-19 or has experienced symptoms of infection in the prior 5 days shall not be permitted to enter the court building or facilities.

Jury trials will be held only if the Judge of the Court determines that the trial is essential, and all participants expressly consent to proceed with available health and safety procedures.

Attorneys and self-represented litigants will receive notice from the Courts with instructions for pending hearings or trials.

This order will remain in effect until expressly rescinded or revised by a subsequent order.

SO ORDERED this 3rd day of January 2022.

[Signature]

Jack Jones
Local Administrative District Judge
District Judge, 146th Judicial District