STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF BELL

DISTRICT COURTS
BELL COUNTY TEXAS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

Pursuant to the inherent powers of these Courts and to the guidelines and recommendations of the Supreme Court of Texas and the Office of Court Administration, 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 the Bell County District Courts, the Bell County Courts at Law, and the Bell County Justice of the Peace Courts will provide essential functions and hearings only beginning tomorrow, March 17, 2020 and continuing through April 10, 2020. This Administrative Order includes the suspension of all jury trials through April 10, 2020.

Examples of essential functions include criminal magistration proceedings, CPS removal hearings, temporary restraining orders/temporary injunctions, juvenile detention hearings and family violence protective orders.

Attorneys are encouraged to use their best judgment in determining which hearings are emergency hearings and to work with each Court in making that determination. Attorneys and Self-Represented Litigants are to contact the appropriate Court to pass or reset hearings as needed. Attorneys and Self-Represented Litigants are also ORDERED to contact the Court if they (or their client) are ill or experiencing symptoms.

SO ORDERED this the 16th day of March, 2020.

Local Administrative Judge

District Judge, 169th Judicial District of Texas