SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE CCL#2 DOCKET FOR THE WEEKS OF 3/30/2020 TO 4/10/20

The following applies to proceedings scheduled for the weeks of March 30, 2020 through April 10, 2020 and those weeks only.

These temporary changes are being made in response to the Coronavirus/Covid-19 outbreak, and are intended to minimize the number of people at the Bell County Justice Center.

Jury Trials

All Jury Trials and Jury Trial Docket Calls will be rescheduled to later dates. The Court Coordinator will give notice of the new settings.

Pleas in cases where the defendant is out on bond.

If the defendant is set for a plea, the case will be reset and a new plea date assigned by the Court Coordinator. This will be done automatically and requires no further action by attorneys or defendants. Attorneys and bond companies, however, should advise their clients not to appear for pleas. The Court Coordinator will give notice of the new court dates.

If you have a defendant on bond who has some urgent need to proceed on their case, contact the Court and reasonable accommodations will be made when possible.

Defendants in Jail

Jail pleas will continue as scheduled. The Jail may need to transport inmates in smaller numbers than usual. Everyone's patience is greatly appreciated.

We are giving priority to cases in which the defendant is in custody. Attorneys with defendants in jail should contact the County Attorney about possibly expediting these cases, even if the case is not currently set for the current week. If needed, we should also be able to hear other jail pleas during the week, in addition to those set on the Tuesday and Friday jail docket.

Pretrial and Revocation Announcements

Attorneys should use Case Setting Forms and Agreed Motions for Continuance to make pretrial and revocation announcements. Defendant's signature on Case Setting Forms will not be required.

Defendants should not appear at the Wednesday 1:15 p.m. docket for pretrial and revocation announcements until after April 10, 2020.

During this time Case Setting Forms and Motions for Continuance may be delivered to the County Court Coordinator by fax at (254)933-5906 or by email at Countycrtcoor@bellcounty.texas.gov

Wednesday Afternoon Special Hearings

All hearings other than the 1:15 Pretrial and Revocation Announcement scheduled for April 1, 2020 and April 8, 2020 will be rescheduled. The Court Coordinator will give notice of the new court dates.

Further information regarding the docket will be forthcoming.