



Judge Jared Cullar
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Wharton County Justice Courts

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East Bernard, TX 77435
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Judge Donna Wessels
Precinct #3
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Louise, TX 77455
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Judge Tim J. Drapela
Precinct #4
605 E. Calhoun St.
El Campo, TX 77437
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TEMPORARY STANDING ORDER REGARDING CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) MITIGATION AND ALL JUSTICE COURTS IN WHARTON COUNTY (Order No. 1 – March 18, 2020)

Due to coronavirus disease (COVID-19), all four Justice Courts in Wharton County issued the following order based on the Office of Court Administration's "Updated Guidance #1 on Court Procedures for the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)." All four Justice Courts are remaining open. We encourage people to contact us by phone, fax or email. All phone calls will be answered during each court's normal business hours. This order is issued to protect the community, limit exposure, and provide for an efficient judicial system:

This order will remain in effect until the Governor of Texas amends the current disaster declaration and the Texas Supreme Court (or its delegate) authorizes new rules during the disaster, in which case a new order for the four Justice Courts in Wharton County will be issued comporting to the declaration and rules. If the Office of Court Administration issued updated guidance, this order will be amended accordingly.

All scheduled court proceedings except for "essential court proceedings" have been reset. Each court will contact litigants to notify them of any new reset dates as soon as practicable for the court. Essential court proceedings are:

- Writs of re-entry
- Writs of retrieval
- Writs of restoration
- Magstration of defendants in custody and of fugitives of justice (in or out of custody)
- Repair & remedy cases that materially affect the physical health or safety of a tenant
- Inquests

For traffic/Class C citations, the appearance date will be extended until the disaster declaration is lifted. This applies to cite-and-release charges and summonses for charges other than Class C misdemeanors as well. No warrants due to failing to appear for a traffic/Class C citation, cite-and-release charge, or a summons will be issued until further notice.

Date: March 18, 2020

Judge Tim J. Drapela
On behalf of the Justice of the Peace in Wharton County, Texas