



PHILLIP S. SPENRATH

Wharton County Judge
100 S. Fulton Street, Suite 100
Wharton, Texas 77488
Office: (979)532-4612 Fax: (979)532-1970

Joyce Ferrell
Administrative Assistant

Rosemary Rodriguez
Court Coordinator

April 30, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE: COURTHOUSE OFFICE ACCESSIBILITY

Effective **Monday, May 4, 2020**, the FRONT DOORS TO MOST WHARTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDINGS WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR BOTH WALK-IN and BY APPOINTMENT MEETINGS.

****Offices that traditionally limit public access will continue to do so at the direction of that elected official. (Adult & Juvenile Probation, District Attorney, Sheriff's Office)**

Per Governor Abbott's new Executive Order GA-18: *essential services and reopened services* may start at 12:01 a.m. on May 1, 2020. In subparagraph i) "*Local government operations, including county and municipal governmental operations relating to permitting, recordation, and document-filing services, as determined by the local government*"

LIBRARIES: Governor Abbott specifically stated in his April 27, 2020 public announcement that Libraries and Museums may Re-open at 25% Occupancy.

JUDICIAL COURTS: The Office of Court Administration continues to mandate that non-essential judicial proceedings be held remotely. **In-person proceedings** of any size should be delayed until **at least June 1, 2020**.

County Officials are asking all visiting patrons and guests to adhere to the following recommendations:

- No more than 10 persons are gathered in the front foyer area around the County Clerk's Office and Tax Office;
- **Patrons are encouraged to wear face coverings where possible;** if you do not have one, a mask will be provided
- Patrons in the building should remain separated consistent with 6 feet social distancing and other precautions.
- Patrons should come alone to help minimize the potential for group contamination (please leave small children and guests at home with family members.)