

NOLAN, MITCHELL AND FISHER COUNTY
LOCAL RULES AND ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS

COVID-19 ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER # 001
(REQUIRING REMOTE APPEARANCES)

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott declared a state of disaster in all 254 counties in the State of Texas in response to the imminent threat of the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, the Texas Supreme Court's and Court of Criminal Appeals' **FIRST EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING THE COVID-19 STATE OF DISASTER** (expiring May 8, 2020) gives the trial courts flexibility to allow or require a party, attorney, witness, or court reporter to participate in or record hearings, depositions, or proceedings of any kind remotely, subject only to Constitutional limitation;

WHEREAS, the Texas Supreme Court's and Court of Criminal Appeals' **THIRD EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING THE COVID-19 STATE OF DISASTER**, prohibits conducting non-essential proceedings in person contrary to local, state and national directives;

WHEREAS, the Office of Court Administration (OCA) directs this State's courts to delay in person proceedings of any size until at least May 1, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, the OCA has provided a tool called Zoom (www.zoom.us) for courts to host remote court proceedings in an effort to assist judges to hold both essential and non-essential proceedings. Guidance is available at:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-How-Do-I-Join-A-Meeting>

or

www.txcourts.gov/programs-services/electronic-hearings-with-zoom

Pursuant to the duties prescribed in and the authority of Texas Government Code § 74.091, *et seq.*, the Texas Constitution and the inherent authority of the Courts, **IT IS ORDERED** and **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that:

- (1) All hearings before the 1st Multicounty Court at Law will be conducted using the Zoom remote appearance technology, unless otherwise ordered;
- (2) Any attorney or party who does not wish to appear remotely in a non-essential case must file a motion for continuance; and,
- (3) Any party or attorney to a proceeding must obtain a Zoom hearing code from the court coordinator by emailing yvonne.lehnert@co.nolan.tx.us.

ORDERED on the 23rd day of March, 2020.



DAVID HALL, JUDGE PRESIDING
1ST MULTICOUNTY COURT AT LAW