



MEDINA COUNTY, TEXAS

Chris Schuchart
County Judge

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DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER

WHEREAS, I, Chris Schuchart, Medina County Judge, with the approval by vote of the Medina County Commissioners Court and following the Order of the Governor of the State of Texas, am issuing this declaration of public health emergency pursuant to the authority granted to me under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 (Texas Government Code, Chapter 418) to declare a public health emergency and order the implementation of certain directives as further set out herein; and

WHEREAS, a Novel coronavirus, now designated SARS-CoV2 which causes the disease COVID-19, has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 virus mainly spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued a proclamation certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster in the state and declaring a state of disaster for all counties in Texas; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, officials from a surrounding County and City confirmed the first case of travel-related COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the first case of travel related COVID-19 was confirmed in Medina County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, Greg Abbott, the Governor of the State of Texas issued an Order to the citizens of this state regarding COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, the County Judge may declare a local state of disaster in and for the County and may exercise the powers granted therein on an appropriate local scale; and

WHEREAS, Medina County will continue to work collaboratively with the Cities of Medina County, Medina County employees, as well as the local health authority, to ensure that all appropriate measures are undertaken to limit the spread of COVID-19 within Medina County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority granted to the County Judge under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, I authorize the use of all available resources of state government and political subdivisions to assist the County's response to this situation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF THE COUNTY OF MEDINA:

1. That a local state of disaster and public health emergency is hereby declared throughout Medina County pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
2. Pursuant to §418.108(b), of the Government Code, the state of disaster and public health emergency shall continue until cancelled by the County Judge or the Medina County Commissioners Court.
3. Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster and public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.
4. Pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster and public health emergency activates Medina County's emergency management plan as well as all appropriate recovery and rehabilitation aspects of the emergency management plan and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance as necessary or appropriate.
5. Pursuant to the authority granted under the laws of the State of Texas, this declaration authorizes Medina County to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress disease throughout Medina County, including quarantine, examining and regulating hospitals, regulating ingress and egress throughout Medina County and any impacted areas.
6. Pursuant to the statutory authority vested in me as the presiding officer of the County of Medina, I issue guidance as set out within the Declaration Regarding Public and Private Gatherings and Related Matters, attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit "1" and Attachment "2".
7. Medina County Justice of the Peace Judges are asked to delay any eviction hearings for the next 30 days to prevent the possible displacement of renters due to a public health emergency.
8. Any foreclosure proceedings initiated by the County shall be temporarily suspended for the next 30 days to prevent displacement of occupants during the public health emergency.
9. As the County Judge and presiding officer of the County of Medina, I further reserve all other authority and powers conferred by state law to respond as necessary to the situation which is the subject of this Declaration.

This Declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance, except where stated otherwise herein.



DECLARED this 19th day of March, 2020.

Chris Schuchart

Chris Schuchart
Medina County Judge

Exhibit "1"

Declaration regarding Public and Private Gatherings and Other Matters

- I. Declaration Regarding Public and Private Gatherings:
 - a. This Exhibit "1" incorporates and adopts, except as where noted below, the Centers for Disease Control ("CDC") Interim Guidance for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) dated March 15, 2020.
 - b. The virus that causes COVID-19 is easily transmitted, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle an influx of patients and safeguard public health and safety.
 - c. For all other gatherings, it is strongly recommended that social distancing protocols established by the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and found within the "Implementation of Mitigation strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission" issued by the CDC on or around March 11, 2020, including canceling, rescheduling, or not attending events with more than ten persons.
 - d. Further, organizations that serve high-risk populations (defined below) should follow CDC guidance for social distancing.
 - e. Because of the risk of the rapid spread of the virus, and the need to protect the most vulnerable members of the community, the declaration includes the following effective at 11:59 p.m. on March 20, 2020 and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on April 9, 2020.

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Order No. 1 | In accordance with the Guidelines from the president and the CDC, every person in Texas shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people. |
| Order No. 2 | In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid eating and drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage parlors; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this executive order. |
| Order No. 3 | In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance. |
| Order No. 4 | In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall temporarily close. |

The declaration does not prohibit people from visiting a variety of places, including grocery stores, gas stations, parks, and banks, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. This declaration does not mandate sheltering in place. Government entities and businesses will continue providing essential services. For offices and workplaces that remain open, employees should practice social distancing, good hygiene and, where feasible, work from home in order to achieve optimum isolation from COVID-19. The more that people reduce their public contact, the sooner COVID-19 will be contained and the sooner this declaration will expire.

- II. All Medina County Courts including but limited to County Courts (with the exception of the County Commissioners Court functioning in its administrative capacity), District Court, Justice of the Peace Courts, City Municipal Courts, are directed to the protocol established by the FIRST EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING THE COVID-19 STATE OF DISASTER issued March 13, 2020, jointly by the Texas Supreme Court and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. (See Exhibit 2).

Exhibit "2"

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Misc. Docket No. 20-9042

IN THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS OF TEXAS

Misc. Docket No. 20-007

**FIRST EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING
THE COVID-19 STATE OF DISASTER**

ORDERED that:

1. Governor Abbott has 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. This order is issued pursuant to Section 22.0035(b) of the Texas Government Code.

2. Subject only to constitutional limitations, all courts in Texas may in any case, civil or criminal—and must to avoid risk to court staff, parties, attorneys, jurors, and the public—without a participant’s consent:

a. Modify or suspend any and all deadlines and procedures, whether prescribed by statute, rule, or order, for a stated period ending no later than 30 days after the Governor’s state of disaster has been lifted;

b. Allow or require anyone involved in any hearing, deposition, or other proceeding of any kind—including but not limited to a party, attorney, witness, or court reporter, but not including a juror—to participate remotely, such as by teleconferencing, videoconferencing, or other means;

c. Consider as evidence sworn statements made out of court or sworn testimony given remotely, out of court, such as by teleconferencing, videoconferencing, or other means;

d. Conduct proceedings away from the court's usual location, but in the county of venue, and only with reasonable notice and access to the participants and the public;

e. Require every participant in a proceeding to alert the court if the participant has, or knows of another participant who has, COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms, or a fever, cough or sneezing;

f. Take any other reasonable action to avoid exposing court proceedings to the threat of COVID-19.

3. All courts in Texas may extend the statute of limitations in any civil case for a stated period ending no later than 30 days after the Governor's state of disaster has been lifted.

4. This Order is effective as of March 13, 2020, and expires May 8, 2020, unless extended by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

5. The Clerk of the Supreme Court is directed to:

a. post a copy of this Order on www.txcourts.gov;

b. file a copy of this Order with the Secretary of State; and

c. send a copy of this Order to the Governor, the Attorney General, and each member of the Legislature.

6. The State Bar of Texas is directed to take all reasonable steps to notify members of the Texas bar of this Order.

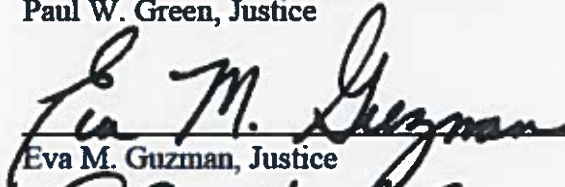
Dated: March 13, 2020



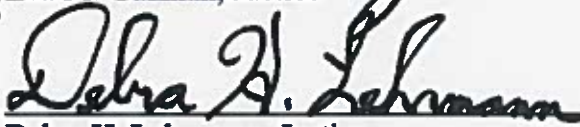
Nathan L. Hecht, Chief Justice



Paul W. Green, Justice



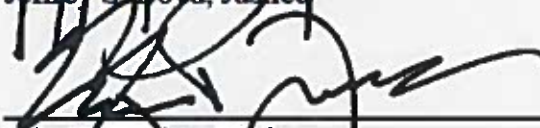
Eva M. Guzman, Justice



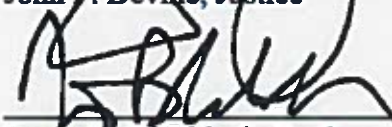
Debra H. Lehrmann, Justice



Jeffrey S. Boyd, Justice



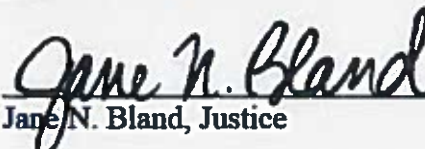
John P. Devine, Justice



James D. Blacklock, Justice



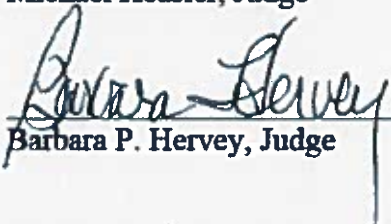
J. Brett Busby, Justice



Jane N. Bland, Justice


Sharon Keller, Presiding Judge

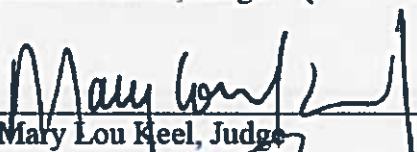

Michael Keasler, Judge


Barbara P. Hervey, Judge

Bert Richardson, Judge


Kevin P. Yeary, Judge


David Newell, Judge


Mary Lou Keel, Judge


Scott Walker, Judge


Michelle M. Slaughter, Judge

"Exhibit 2A"

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Misc. Docket No. 20-9044

IN THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS OF TEXAS

Misc. Docket No. 20-008

THIRD EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING THE COVID-19 STATE OF DISASTER

ORDERED that:

1. Governor Abbott has 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. This order is issued pursuant to Section 22.0035(b) of the Texas Government Code.

2. With respect to the First Emergency Order Regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster issued March 13, 2020:

a. Paragraph 2(d) is amended as follows: Conduct proceedings away from the court's usual location with reasonable notice and access to the participants and the public;

b. Only to clarify, Paragraph 2(a) of the Order applies to all proceedings under Subtitle E, Title 5, of the Family Code, and specifically, to the deadlines in Section 263.401, which may or must be modified or suspended, as clearly stated in the Order, to avoid the risks of disaster and still protect the interests of all involved in these difficult circumstances.

3. Courts must not conduct non-essential proceedings in person contrary to local, state, or national directives, whichever is most restrictive, regarding maximum group size.

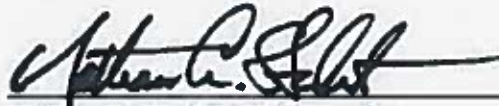
4. This Order expires May 8, 2020, unless extended by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

5. The Clerk of the Supreme Court is directed to:

- a. post a copy of this Order on www.txcourts.gov;
- b. file a copy of this Order with the Secretary of State; and
- c. send a copy of this Order to the Governor, the Attorney General, and each member of the Legislature.

6. The State Bar of Texas is directed to take all reasonable steps to notify members of the Texas bar of this Order.

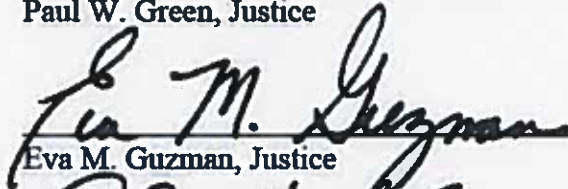
Dated: March 19, 2020



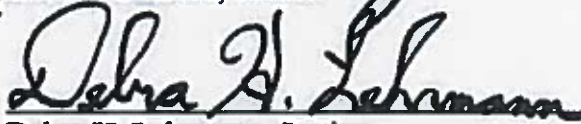
Nathan L. Hecht, Chief Justice



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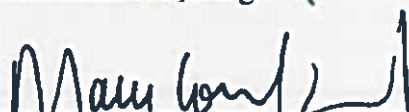

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Scott Walker, Judge


Michelle M. Slaughter, Judge