



COUNTIES:

ATASCOSA

FRIO

KARNES

LA SALLE

WILSON

JOURDANTON

PEARSALL

KARNES CITY

COTULLA

FLORESVILLE

81ST AND 218TH DISTRICT COURTS

ATASCOSA, FRIO, KARNES LA SALLE & WILSON COUNTIES

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March 19, 2020

Re: Second Directive Limiting Civil Settings by Personal Appearance in District Court.

In the interest of the safety and welfare of the public, attorneys, clients, and courthouse staff, the 81st and 218th County Civil District Courts have made the following decisions regarding the civil dockets in Atascosa, Frio, Karnes, La Salle and Wilson Counties.

A Directive will be posted, this week, allowing spouses who are not represented by an attorney to finalize an UNCONTESTED divorce, with or without children, by affidavit.

Beginning Friday, March 20, 2020, through Friday, May 1, 2020, personal appearance at civil dockets will be limited to "essential matters," all other civil settings are suspended. If your case is not an essential matter, as defined below, **THE SETTING IS SUSPENDED AND YOU SHOULD NOT APPEAR IN COURT.** Essential matters are:

- Suits brought under Title 4 of the Texas Family Code -- applications for protective orders involving family violence;
- Suits brought under Chapters 261 and 262, Texas Family Code -- removal hearings in suits brought by governmental entities for the protection of a child/children;
- Suits brought under Chapter 33, Texas Family Code -- judicial bypass cases;
- Suits brought under Chapters 51-60, Texas Family Code – Texas Juvenile Justice Code, where the juvenile is in custody;

- Suits brought under Chapter 160, Texas Family Code -- gestational surrogacy cases;
- Suits brought under Chapter 157, Texas Family Code -- writs of habeas corpus, writs of attachment for children, and enforcement actions where a Respondent is incarcerated;
- Suits or hearings involving jurisdictional deadlines that cannot be waived or continued, and
- Requests for Temporary Restraining Orders and Temporary Injunctions.

The District Judges retain the inherent discretion to add or remove a case from the civil dockets.

To the extent allowed by the Texas Supreme Court's [First Emergency Order Regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster](#), and any subsequent orders, all deadlines and procedures for nonessential civil matters, whether prescribed by statute, rule, or order, are stayed, until further order, for a period ending not later than 30 days after the Governor's state of disaster has been lifted, except to the extent that, after notice and hearing, the Court lifts the stay in individual civil matters.

If, in a setting not already suspended, a party, attorney, staff member, witness or spectator, exhibits any COVID-19 symptoms, including fever, coughing, or sneezing, or has a particularized reason to believe they have been exposed to COVID-19, the Court ORDERS them to NOT APPEAR, but notify the Court Coordinator at 830-769-3750, or coordinator@81-218.txcourts.gov, for rescheduling.