

Chief Judge, Twelfth Judicial District
**12th JUDICIAL DISTRICT-
COVID-19 ORDER FOR
MATTERS SET THROUGH
MAY 31, 2020**



**CHIEF JUDGE
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
2020-03**

This order is being issued to provide guidance to parties and attorneys for the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. Federal, state, and local governments have declared a state of emergency in response to the spread of COVID-19. Moreover, federal, state, and public health departments have issued advisements about measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 and precautions to reduce exposure to the virus. Effective today and through May 31, 2020, the Courts of the 12th Judicial District will make every effort to limit the number of people appearing in person at the courthouses of the 12th Judicial District for court hearings. The Court encourages all attorneys, litigants and defendants to please call in for their respective court hearing. These efforts are intended to limit any potential spread of COVID-19. For these and other reasons, the Court enters the following orders.

1. All civil jury trials scheduled between now and May 31, 2020 shall hereby be vacated. The parties in such cases shall contact the judicial officer's staff to reschedule the jury trial.
2. All criminal jury trials scheduled between now and May 31, 2020 will be vacated and continued by judicial officers unless: (1) there are speedy trial constraints; or (2) the judicial officer finds exigent circumstances. The parties in such cases shall contact the appropriate judicial officer's staff to reschedule the jury trial.
3. As to other trials, hearings, and conferences scheduled between now and May 31, 2020, judicial officers, to the extent practicable and at their discretion, will attempt to reschedule such matters past May 31, 2020 or to convert such matters to telephonic appearances in an effort to minimize the need for persons to travel to court. That said, certain matters may nevertheless require personal appearances.

4. All courts in the 12th Judicial District will continue to be open to provide essential public safety services. Essential public safety matters include: (1) temporary civil protection orders; (2) child welfare and family emergencies; (3) advisements, probation revocation and bond hearings for persons in custody; and (4) other emergency matters as determined at the discretion of the judges.
5. All clerk's office windows shall remain open to receive filings. The courts will observe standard operating hours.
6. Should parties and attorneys have any questions, they are encouraged to contact the judicial officer's staff by telephone or email, rather than travel to court. Additional contact information is found on the court's website.

To the extent there is a conflict between other Chief Judge Administrative Orders, this Order governs through May 31, 2020.

Dated this 17th day of March 2020.

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Gonzales', written over a horizontal line.

Michael A. Gonzales
Chief Judge
Twelfth Judicial District