

## **COLLIN COUNTY JUSTICE COURTS**

Judge Paul Raleeh Justice Court 1 2300 Bloomdale Road Suite 1164 McKinney, TX 75071 972-548-4125 Judge Jerry Shaffer Justice Court 2 406A Raymond Street Farmersville, TX 75442 972-782-8671 Judge Chuck Ruckel Justice Court 3-1 920 East Park Blvd. Suite 220 Plano, TX 75074 972-881-3001

Judge Mike Missildine Justice Court 3-2 920 East Park Blvd. Suite 210 Plano, TX 75074 972-881-3051 Judge Mike Yarbrough Justice Court 4 8585 John Wesley Suite 130 Frisco, TX 75034 972-731-7300

## STANDING ORDER REGARDING CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) MITIGATION TO ALL COLLIN COUNTY JUSTICE COURTS COURT ORDER NO. 03

Due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and by the authority granted by law and by the "FIRST EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING THE COVID-19 STATE OF DISASTER" ordered by the Supreme Court of Texas and Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas, the five Justice Courts of Collin County (also referred to as the Justices of the Peace) issue the following order. This order supersedes any and all previous orders to protect the community and limit exposure to COVID-19:

- 1. All scheduled court proceedings except for essential court proceedings will be reset to a date after June 1, 2020.
- 2. "Essential court proceedings" are defined as: writs of re-entry; writs of retrieval; writs of restoration; magistration of defendants in custody and of fugitives from justice (in or out of custody); repair and remedy cases that materially affect the physical health or safety of a tenant; emergency mental assessments and any proceedings to enforce a governmental entity's response to a COVID-19 declaration of state of disaster.
- 3. No eviction settings (both residential and commercial) will be held until after May 18, 2020. No writs of possession will be executed until after May 25, 2020.
- 4. This order does not diminish the Justices of the Peace's ability to continue to issue judgments, orders, and rulings by submission if already authorized by law to do so for non-eviction cases.
- 5. For traffic/Class C citations with an appearance date within the effective date of this order, the appearance date will be extended to June 11, 2020. This applies to cite-and-release charges and summonses for charges other than Class C misdemeanors as well. Please keep in mind that you may make payments online, request Deferred or Driver Safety Courses by mail or to the court electronically.

- 6. No warrants based on failing to appear or for violating a promise to appear to a Justice Court for a traffic/Class C citation, cite-and-release charge, or a summons will be issued until June 15, 2020.
- 7. In order to alleviate the threat of COVID-19 in County Jails, the Justice Courts will temporarily suspend active warrants for all misdemeanor Class C offenses from their courts, until June 1, 2020. All the requirements and conditions of the warrants previously signed by the Justices of the Peace remain in effect but are suspended during this state of emergency. For the effective suspension, the Collin County Sheriff's Office, Collin County Constables, and all other law enforcement agencies are directed to relate this order to all law enforcement officers requesting confirmation of warrants, so that they are aware not to bring Class C defendants to the jail.

Therefore, all warrants for misdemeanor Class C offenses from the Justice courts are temporarily suspended until June 1, 2020. For the duration of this suspension, the Collin County Sheriff's Office is ordered to not accept a defendant who solely has a Class C misdemeanor warrant from the Collin County Justices of the Peace.

- 8. The Constables of Collin County are authorized that they may choose not serve Justice Court papers if it is in their best discretion based on the public's health and deputy constable's safety through May 18, 2020. Failure to serve papers based on this order shall not be considered by any court with regard to statute of limitations or diligent service analysis. The Constables of Collin County must continue to serve Justice Court papers with regard to essential court proceedings in all instances.
- 9. New filings shall be limited to Guide and File and E-File (EFileTexas.gov) or to the Justice Court's designated filing email [as noticed in each Justice Court's website] or regular USPS only until June 1, 2020.
- 10. Each Justice Court is authorized to limit building access to comply with any recommendations/orders from county public health officials regarding limiting the number of people in a public space or room, including but not limited to screening whether a person's business with the Justice Court falls into essential court business and limiting the hours a Justice Court is open to the public. If a Justice Court limits the hours it is open to the public, notice of such limitations shall be posted on the Justice Court's official website and at its main entrance.
- 11. Individual Justice Courts may suspend marriage ceremonies so again it will be important for wedding parties to call the courts for direction. Any Justices of the Peace conducting marriage ceremonies will limit access to the bride and groom only No groups or other participants will be admitted.
- 12. All deadlines or statutes of limitation calculations are tolled effective March 20, 2020 to June 1, 2020.

This order shall be posted outside of each Justice Court and on each Justice Court's official website.

The time periods in this order may be extended in a subsequent order if required.