

STANDING ORDER SO-2020-0001

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER	§	IN THE PROBATE
	§	
HEARINGS CONDUCTED	§	
	§	OF
THROUGH	§	
	§	
ZOOM CONFERENCING	§	DENTON COUNTY, TEXAS

**Hearings Conducted by Zoom Videoconferencing
Denton County Probate Judge Administrative Order**

The Court finds as a result of Governor Greg Abbott’s proclamation declaring a state of disaster for all counties in Texas due to COVID-19 and in cooperation with state and local governments to reduce the community spread of COVID-19, it is in the best interest of the public welfare and safety that the methods used to hold hearings be modified as follows:

1. All hearings will be held by secure Zoom videoconferencing or telephonically, if videoconferencing is unavailable. There will be no in person hearings unless a formal written motion requesting an in person hearing is filed with the Denton County Clerk and approved by the Probate Court for an in person hearing.

2. There is not to be any recordings made of the court hearing other than the Zoom videoconferencing recording made during the hearing, which is controlled by the Judge as the host of the Zoom videoconference. The official transcript of the hearing will be the Court Reporter assigned to the hearing for the purpose of making the official Court Record.

3. The Denton County Probate Judge and the Denton County Associate Probate Judge shall conduct Zoom videoconferencing hearings from the county seat or from an alternate location inside Denton County that allows the Denton County Probate Court to safely and practicably conduct its proceedings. All hearings, except mental health hearings, will be live streamed through the Probate Court’s YouTube channel posted with the Office of Court Administration.

4. All jury trials are continued until further notice and modification of this Standing Order.

5. Pursuant to the authority granted to Presiding Statutory Probate Judge, Guy Herman, by Texas Government Code §25.0022(c) and Orders entered by Judge Herman, the undersigned is authorized to perform acts necessary to improve the management of the Denton County Probate Court and to carry out the administration of justice.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that all hearings will be held by Zoom videoconferencing, or telephonically if videoconferencing is unavailable. There will be no in person hearings unless a formal written motion requesting an in person hearing is filed and approved by the Court for an in person hearing.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that there shall be no recordings made of the court hearing other than the Zoom videoconferencing recording made during the hearing, which is recorded and controlled by the Judge as the host of the Zoom videoconference. This order is punishable by contempt. It is ordered that the official transcript of the hearing will be the Court Reporter assigned to the hearing for the purpose of making the official Court Record.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Denton County Probate Judge and the Denton County Associate Probate Judge shall conduct Zoom videoconferencing hearings from the county seat or from an alternate location inside Denton County that allows the Denton County Probate Court to safely and practicably conduct its proceedings. All hearings, except mental health hearings, or those closed under Texas Estates Code Sec. 1101.051(c), will be live streamed through the Probate Court's YouTube channel posted with the Office of Court Administration.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED all jury trials are continued until further notice and modification of this Standing Order.

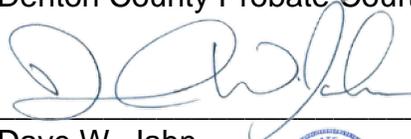
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Standing Order shall remain in effect until further modified by this Court's order.

Signed April 17, 2020.





Bonnie J. Robison
Presiding Judge
Denton County Probate Court



Dave W. Jahn
Associate Judge
Denton County Probate Court

