

MISCELLANEOUS ORDER NO. _____

IN RE: § IN THE 6TH DISTRICT COURT
§
TEMPORARY DOCKET CONTROL § OF
RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF §
§
CPS HEARINGS § LAMAR COUNTY, TEXAS

TEMPORARY DOCKET CONTROL RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF CPS HEARINGS

Pursuant to Federal and State guidance, the Court adopts these Temporary Docket Control Orders for CPS matters:

A. Essential CPS Court Hearings:

1. Essential CPS court hearings are, by definition, adversary hearings on new removals.
2. All essential court hearings will be held electronically, unless otherwise directed by the Court. (Please see the Court's instructions regarding electronic hearings.)

B. Final CPS Hearings:

1. All contested final CPS hearings will be rescheduled until after May 1, 2020.

C. CPS Status Hearings, Permanency Hearings and Review Hearings:

1. These will be heard by submission.
2. The Attorney Ad Litem for the child/ren and CASA will be required to file a report prior to the day of any scheduled hearing, containing any and all relevant information pertaining to the child. This report may be filed jointly or adopted by the other party.
3. Any visits the Attorney Ad Litem for the child/ren or CASA request or require may be conducted via FaceTime, Skype, or other video conferencing means.
4. DFPS is required to email a proposed order to all parties a minimum of five days prior to any scheduled hearing, to allow for review and input to the court. If a party has an objection to a proposed Order, that objection must be relayed by email to DFPS and copied to all parties and the Court. If no objections are received, DFPS is to submit the proposed Order to the Court for its signature.
5. If there are contested issues or objections, the court, upon receipt of all the above information, will make a determination as to whether it is most appropriate to conduct a remote hearing or reschedule the matter for a later date.

Pursuant to the First Emergency Order Regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster issued by the Supreme Court of the State of Texas, this Court hereby SUSPENDS all deadlines related

to Chapter 262 cases (CPS proceedings) until May 6, 2020, but not later than 30 days after the Governor's state of disaster has been lifted.

This ORDER is subject to change without notice so as to comply with directives or guidance received by this Court that are designed to ensure the public's health and safety.

Finally, this Order applies to any case on the docket of the 6th Judicial District Court regardless of which Court in which it was filed.

SIGNED this 30th day of March, 2020.



JUDGE R. WESLEY TIDWELL
PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE 6TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
COURT