

**(Special Order No. 20-02)**

***Effective 3-20-2020***

**TEMPORARY STANDING ORDER REGARDING CONORNA VIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)  
MITIGATION AND JUSTICE OF THE PEACE. PCT THREE IN WASHINGTON COUNTY**

**THIS ORDER SUPERCEDES ALL PREVIOUS ORDERS.**

Due to coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the Justice of the Peace, Pct. Three in Washington County issues the following order based on the Office of Court Administration's "Updated Guidance #1 on Court Procedures for the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Special Orders of the Texas Supreme Court." This order is issued to protect the community, limit exposure, and provide for an efficient judicial system:

This order will stay in effect (until rescinded by the court) unless the Governor of Texas issues a disaster declaration and the Texas Supreme Court (or its delegate) authorizes new rules during the disaster, in which case a new order for the Justice of the Peace, Pct. Three in Washington County will be issued comporting to the declaration and rules. If the Office of Court Administration or the Texas Supreme Court issues updated guidance, the Justice of the Peace, Pct. Three in Washington County will amend this order accordingly.

All scheduled court proceedings prior to March 20, 2020 except for "essential court proceedings" will be reset to another date after April 20, 2020. Each court will contact the litigants to notify them of the new reset date as soon as practicable for the court. Essential court proceedings are: 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), and repair and remedy cases that materially affect the physical health or safety of a tenant.

All eviction suits filed after March 16, 2020 setting will be held until after April 19, 2020. No writs of possession will be issued until, at a minimum, 60 days after the judgment date.

For traffic/Class C citations with an appearance date prior to April 1, 2020, the appearance date on any citation issued in March 2020 will be extended 30 calendar days. This applies to cite-and-release charges and summonses for charges other than Class C misdemeanors as well. No warrants due to failing to appear for a traffic/Class C citation, cite-and-release charge, or a summons will be issued for 60 days from the order. All payments on established payment plans that fall in the month of March 2020 are hereby extended for 30 calendar days from the original payment date.

*Res Ipsa Loquitur,*

Judge Ken Tofel, Justice of the Peace

Precinct Three, Place One

Washington County, Texas