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WASHINGTON COUNTY COURT AT LAW

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Public Emergency Procedures

Pursuant to the First Emergency Order of the Texas Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals, dated March 13, 2020, the following procedures will be in place for the Washington County Court at Law, effective March 13, 2020 through May 8, 2020:

1. To the extent possible, the Court will handle all uncontested civil matters by submission. Civil-case evidence shall be by sworn affidavits. All parties must sign any order / judgment in agreement. Signatures must be distinctive, written signatures or DocuSign-style (not "s/Typed Name" and not signed with permission), and properly sworn / notarized. Any attached exhibits must have an affidavit establishing admissibility / authenticity. The Appearances section of the order should state that the parties did not appear in person and that the making of a record is waived. These cases include, but are not limited to, probates, guardianships, uncontested divorces and family law matters, non-disclosures and occupational licenses. Once all appropriate documents are e-filed, the Court will take up these matters by submission.
2. Currently set civil hearings are being taken down to give counsel the opportunity to obtain and prepare proper evidentiary documentation for submission. If counsel still desires an in-person hearing they need to contact the court coordinator to retain or obtain a setting.
3. Probate applications should be accompanied by the supporting affidavit. Following sufficient notice, the Court will admit the Will to probate based upon the affidavit.
4. Juvenile detention hearings and Child Protective Cases (removals) will be set on an as-needed basis.
5. The criminal dockets of April 1 and April 8 are cancelled, and new court dates will be assigned.
6. Jury trials will not be held during this time.

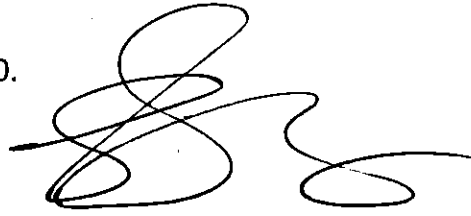
Unless they receive special permission from the Court, pro-se litigants (civil) must file their pleadings through the e-file system.

The Court will handle emergency matters on a case-by-case basis. You will need to contact the Court directly to plan and set emergency hearings.

For resets or settings, please contact Peggy Bland at pbland@wacounty.com.

Orders may be extended and / or cases reset as needed. It is the goal of the Court to ensure the health and safety of court staff, counsel, litigants and the public while continuing to serve the community as efficiently and effectively as possible. The Court will handle any issues not addressed by these general procedures individually, and as judiciously as possible. Thank you, and God bless you all.

Signed this the 18th day of March, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end, positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Judge Eric Berg

Washington County Court at Law