

IN THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 5  
OF NUECES COUNTY, TEXAS

**TEMPORARY STANDING ORDERS FOR TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND  
PROTECTIVE SERVICES (TDFPS) CASES IN NUECES COUNTY COURT AT LAW  
FIVE**

The Court, having considered the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Governor Abbot's declaration of a state of disaster for all Texas counties on March 13, 2020, and the Supreme Court of Texas and the Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas' Emergency Orders regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster, FINDS that good cause exists for the entry of this Order.

IT IS ORDERED that all previously ordered in-person parent-child visitations (or other form of kinship visitation) scheduled to take place in TDFPS cases between March 20, 2020 and May 1, 2020 are hereby ORDERED SUSPENDED in an effort to contain the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and to protect the children, parents, caregivers, caseworkers and other parties.

The Department (TDFPS) is ORDERED to make arrangements for telephonic or video communications using any available platform in place of in person visitation between March 23, 2020 and May 1, 2020. These Orders also apply to previously ordered sibling visits. Video communication should take priority over telephonic communications when possible. The Department (TDFPS) is ORDERED to make all possible efforts to allow these visits to occur on the dates and times previously ordered for in person visitation. The Department (TDFPS) is ORDERED to assist the parties to the best of their abilities with the technology to facilitate these

visits. The parties may, by agreement, increase and decrease the frequency and duration of these visits.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Department (TDFPS):**

(1) provide a copy of this Standing Order to each parent either by email, text, or hand delivery;

(2) advise when and where appropriate all children of this Standing Order;

(3) advise each parent, child, and CASA of their right to request an exception be made to this Order in the manner described below.

(4) all parties are to take into consideration whether halting in-person visitation will adversely affect the behavioral and/or emotional level of the child in any way in determining whether or not to request an exception to this Order.

(5) If an exception is requested by any party, then TDFPS is instructed to do the following:

a. First, staff this exception with TDFPS Caseworker, Program Director, CASA, parents, and parent's attorneys and confer in an effort to reach an alternative plan prior to an emergency hearing being requested; and

b. If no agreement is reached, the attorney representing the party requesting the exception SHALL file a Motion for Emergency Telephonic Hearing and contact the Court Coordinator, Bernice Perez-Beem via email at Bernice.Perez-Beem@Nuecesco.com of the request.

c. ALL MOTIONS FOR EMERGENCY TELEPHONIC HEARINGS SHALL CONTAIN A CERTIFICATE OF CONFERENCE CERTIFYING THAT THE MOVANT HAS ATTEMPTED, IN GOOD FAITH, TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE WITH ALL PARTIES TO NO AVAIL.

These orders shall remain in full force and effect until set-aside

Signed On March 23, 2020



Hon. Timothy J. McCoy, Judge Presiding

RECEIVED  
MAR 23 2020  
ANNE LORENTZEN, DISTRICT CLERK  
NUECES COUNTY