



# CALDWELL COUNTY

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To: All Attorneys and Litigants

The "**COVID-19 Operating Plan for the Caldwell County Judiciary**" (**the Plan**) signed on May 29, 2020 by F.C. Schneider, Local Administrative District Judge (LADJ), and approved by Billy Ray Stubblefield, Presiding Judge of the Third Administrative Judicial Region, State of Texas, allowed the County Court at Law to begin to set non-essential in-person hearings no sooner than **June 1, 2020** with the implementation of safety measures to protect those individuals that must come to the County Court At Law to conduct business.

As required by the Supreme Court's Emergency Orders and Guidance from the Office of Court Administration (OCA), Judge F.C. Schneider (LADJ) consulted with the local public health authority regarding the **Recertification** of the COVID-19 Operating Plan for in-person hearings. The local public health authority determined that the local pandemic conditions are conducive to in-person proceedings with modification to the precautions and protocols in the previously-submitted in-person operating plan. The one change from the original operating plan is the Requirement of Face Coverings. **The Recertification of the COVID-19 Operating Plan for Caldwell County Judiciary Plan has been approved by the Regional Judge.**

The County Court at Law will continue to take the same protective and safety measures for in-person hearings that are consistent with the local public health guidelines which include social distancing, hygiene, screening, face coverings, cleaning procedures and other measures as stated in the "**Amended COVID-19 Operating Plan for Caldwell County Judiciary signed by Judge F.C. Schneider (LADJ) on January 15, 2021.**" [The Plan is posted on the OCA site].

Pursuant to the Texas Supreme Court's 33<sup>rd</sup> Emergency issued on January 14, 2021 and the Guidance of the OCA, the County Court at Law will use all reasonable efforts to conduct proceedings remotely. Cases that are scheduled in-person will be set on a docket with a reduced number of cases to avoid large numbers of people in the courtroom. The hearings will occur in-person under the precautions and protocols in the approved AMENDED COVID-19 Operating Plan. **All individuals entering the Justice Center MUST WEAR A PROTECTIVE FACE COVERING AT ALL TIMES.**

**IF YOU OR YOUR CLIENT FEEL THAT YOU ARE A VULNERABLE PERSON SUSCEPTIBLE TO CONTRACTING THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19), PLEASE CALL THE COURT. INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE OVER AGE 65, AND INDIVIDUALS WITH SERIOUS UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITIONS, SUCH AS HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, CHRONIC LUNG DISEASE, DIABETES, OBESITY, ASTHMA, AND THOSE WHOSE IMMUNE SYSTEMS ARE COMPROMISED SUCH AS BY CHEMOTHERAPY FOR CANCER OR OTHER CONDITIONS REQUIRING SUCH THERAPY ARE CONSIDERED TO BE VULNERABLE POPULATIONS. ACCOMMODATIONS TO THOSE THAT ARE VULNERABLE WILL BE MADE ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, INCLUDING VIDEOCONFERENCING VIA ZOOM, TELECONFERENCING, HYBRID TELECONFERENCING OR AN "IN-PERSON" PROCEEDING IN A LIMITED ACCESS COURTROOM. -- If no accommodation is available, the Judge will determine if a continuance is warranted and will reset your case. Please call the Court Coordinator, Anna Velasquez, at 512-359-4348 for further questions.**

Thank you,

  
BARBARA L. MOLINA  
JUDGE, CALDWELL COUNTY COURT AT LAW