

	§	IN THE COUNTY COURT
	§	
	§	
CRIMINAL REMOTE	§	AT LAW
ZOOM HEARINGS	§	
	§	
	§	
	§	GILLESPIE COUNTY, TEXAS

STANDING ORDER FOR CRIMINAL HEARINGS

This Court, and all Texas courts, having been ordered to use all reasonable efforts to have non-essential hearings be performed by remote hearings/Zoom beginning June 1, 2020, unless litigants or other court participants are unable to successfully participate in a remote hearing for reasons beyond this Courts' control, will conduct remote hearings using Zoom as ORDERED below.

The Court hereby ORDERS the following for remote Zoom hearings:

1. Upon receiving notice of the hearing from the County Clerk's Office, each defendant shall **IMMEDIATELY** provide the Gillespie County Court at Law Court Coordinator ("Court Coordinator") a working phone number and email address where they can be easily reached and participate on Zoom.
2. If the defendant is represented by counsel, counsel for the defendant shall gather all *confirmed* email addresses and phone numbers of their respective clients and provide said information to the Court Coordinator.
3. Pro Se defendants (representing themselves) shall be responsible for notifying the Court Coordinator if he/she does not have the technology to participate in Zoom hearings.
4. If a defendant is represented by counsel, defense counsel shall be responsible for notifying the Court Coordinator if they and/or their client do not have the technology to participate in Zoom hearings.
5. All parties participating in a remote Zoom hearing shall make sure they have proper and strong internet/wifi/cellular connections.
6. Should any party call a witness to testify on their behalf, that party shall make sure that the witness has the ability, technology and service to participate in the remote Zoom

MAY 26 2020

FILED

MARY LYNN RUSCHE
COUNTY CLERK - Gillespie Co. Texas

By Laura S. [Signature]
Deputy

See Reverse Side

hearing. The party calling the witness shall notify the Court Coordinator if the witness does not meet the ordered requirements.

7. The party calling the witness shall provide the Court Coordinator the witness' valid and confirmed email address and phone number.

8. Parties who cannot participate in a remote Zoom hearing will be placed on a courtroom docket and must appear in person at that hearing. Those defendants, attorneys or witnesses, who do not appear when scheduled on a Zoom remote hearing may be subject to criminal charges and/or contempt and/or be placed on an in-person docket unless excused by the Court.

9. Defendants, attorneys, court staff or witnesses with symptoms of COVID-19 shall **IMMEDIATELY** notify the Court Coordinator.

10. In-person court dockets will be held pursuant to the COVID-19 Operating Plan for the Gillespie County Judiciary as approved by the Office of Court Administration.

11. All parties, including pro se defendants and attorneys, shall share all potential exhibits with each other and the Court Coordinator two days prior to the hearing.

12. All efforts must be taken to participate in the Zoom hearing while continuing social distancing between counsel, party, witness and court personnel.

13. Any person who is 65 years of age or older and individuals with serious underlying health conditions, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune system are compromised **may** contact the Court Coordinator to get further direction from the Court.

The Gillespie County Court at Law Court Coordinator may be reached as follows:

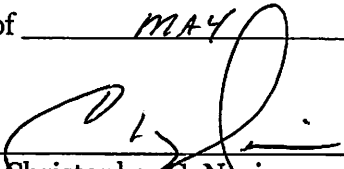
Email: **kpressler@gillespiecounty.org**

Phone: (830) 307-3766

Fax: (830) 307-3783

This Order is effective June 1, 2020 until August 31, 2020 unless modified by the Court.

SIGNED on the 26 day of MAY, 2020 at 3:15 am/pm



Hon. Christopher G. Nevins
Judge, County Court at Law
Gillespie County, Texas

See Reverse Side