



TUCK MOODY McLAIN
JUDGE – COUNTY COURT AT LAW
GRIMES COUNTY, TEXAS

EXTENSION 5/20/2020
COVID 19 EMERGENCY ORDERS
AND COURT CANCELLATIONS

In accordance with Orders of the Supreme Court of Texas and The Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas issued on March 13, 2020, and the extension of those orders made April 17, 2020, and the *Covid-19 Operating Plan For The Grimes County Judiciary*, the County Court at Law of Grimes County EXTENDS the following emergency orders modifying and suspending certain provisions related to court proceedings.

This Court adopts and will be following the *Covid-19 Operating Plan For The Grimes County Judiciary* prepared by the Grimes County Administrative Judge as required by the Texas Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals and approved by the Texas State Health Department.

The following Orders are to continue:


1. All criminal ancillary dockets remain cancelled through, and till, June 30, 2020. This order specifically cancels criminal dockets on 6/1/2020, 6/10/2020, 6/17/2020, 6/29/2020 and 7/1/2020. Notices for reset dates will be sent by the Court's Coordinator to defendants and counsel via email, when available, or by US Mail when an email address is not available, The Court will hold bond hearings, hearing on Writs of Habeas Corpus, or Art. 17.151 hearings on an as needed basis. In person pleas will only be set upon extraordinary circumstances.
2. Jury trial for July 29, 2020 cancelled.
3. Juvenile dockets remain cancelled. Specifically, the June 4, 2020 and June 18, 2020 Juvenile dockets are cancelled. Juvenile settings for detention hearings or imposition of conditions of release will be set on an as need basis.
4. Divorce "prove ups" shall continue to be done by affidavit only. Counsel should efile the decree and necessary documents with signatures of counsel and parties. An affidavit of one or both of the parties setting forth required information for proof must be filed with the decree. Upon receipt of all required documentation, the decree will be signed.

5. Family Law “prove up” settings are cancelled till June 30, 2020.
6. Probate applications will continue to be proved by affidavit. No “in person” testimony will be allowed. The application should be accompanied appropriate affidavits to prove the application. All applications and affidavits must be efiled. Upon receipt of the application, after sufficient notice, the Court will admit the will to probate based on properly filed affidavits.
7. All civil hearings, including family law matters, will be conducted via Zoom Video Conferencing:
8. If an emergency “in person” hearing is required, it shall be conducted in accordance with the Texas Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals Guidelines:
 - Essential proceedings should occur in-person only if holding the proceeding remotely is not possible or feasible.
 - If essential proceedings must be held in-person, the court should ensure that:
 - No more than 10 persons are gathered in the courtroom or in areas around the courtroom;
 - Participants wear face coverings; and
 - Participants in the courtroom are separated consistent with social distancing and other precautions.
9. No new civil settings will be set for live hearing before June 30, 2020 except on an emergency basis.
10. Pro se or Self Represented Litigants must file all pleadings via efile. Only upon specific exception granted by the Court, may a pro se or self-represented litigant file a pleading in person.
11. If a matter can be handled via submission, it should be;
12. Other matters such as mental health commitments and guardianships will be handled on a case by case basis;

All communication with the Court should be done via email at ccl@grimescountytexas.gov.

These orders are subject to change without additional notice. Any changes will be immediately posted to the Courts website. Orders may be extended and cases reset as the emergency situation progresses. It is the Court’s goal to make sure all staff, counsel and participants are protected and safe from infection while maintaining the necessary functions of the Court.

Signed this the 20th day of May, 2020.



Tuck McLain
Judge Presiding
County Court at Law
Grimes County, Texas