

SPECIAL ORDER

STATE OF TEXAS)
) IN THE COUNTY COURT AT LAWS
) 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, AND 8
COUNTY OF HIDALGO) HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

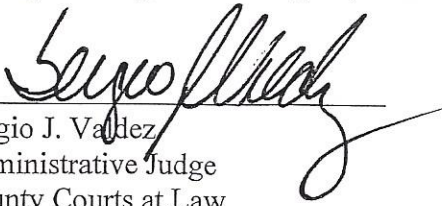
SPECIAL ORDER ON COVID-19 PROTOCOL FOR COUNTY COURTS

The County Court Judges have unanimously agreed to the following plan due to recent updates on the COVID-19 virus. This plan is made in efforts to comply with the Supreme Court of Texas First Emergency Order Regarding the Covid-19 State of Disaster. This plan will remain in effect until further Special Order. This is a fluid situation subject to reassessment and /or change.

1. The County Courts at Law will set no more than 10 cases for the morning docket and 10 cases for the afternoon docket. . The total of these 10 cases for each session will be selected from a combination of criminal cases, family law cases and civil cases.
2. Each County Court at Law Judge will exercise his Judicial Discretion in selecting the 10 cases for each session. The Criteria for selection will be as set forth in the guidance provided by the Office of Court Administration relating to essential and non essential cases.
3. Priority of cases to be scheduled and heard include but are not limited to the following types of cases: Jail cases, protective orders, restraining orders for the protection of children and family members, domestic violence, etc. This list does not set forth the Order upon which the Judge will set preference for hearing cases but is an example of the cases considered to be essential.
4. Divorce Decree without Children: The attorneys may submit divorce decrees where there are no children of the marriage for the Judges signature as long as all parties and attorneys have signed off on the final decree of divorce. The respective Judge will sign the Order without a hearing.
5. Divorce Decree with Children: The attorneys may submit divorce decrees where there are children of the marriage for the Judges signature with the following conditions. All attorney and parties must sign off on the decree and the parties must submit an affidavit attesting they have reviewed the decree, that they agree to the terms set forth in the decree and that they request the Judge grant the divorce.

6. Waivers of Arraignment: The County Court at Law Judges will accept waiver of arraignments in all cases with the exception of DWI cases and Domestic Violence Cases. The attorneys should contact each respective Court to receive information on how each Court is handling the waivers on these two types of cases.

It is Ordered that this Order be filed for record with the County Clerk and District Clerk of Hidalgo County, Texas. Signed, Ordered and Entered on March 18, 2020



Sergio J. Valdez
Administrative Judge
County Courts at Law
Hidalgo County, Texas