

33rd and 424th Judicial District Courts State of Texas District Courts of

BLANCO · BURNET · LLANO · SAN SABA COUNTIES

J. ALLAN GARRETT

PRESIDING JUDGE, 33RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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Dear Attorneys, Clerks, Sheriffs, and Interested Parties:

RE: Protocols for In-person Court for the 33rd/424th District Courts starting April 1, 2021

As many of you may know, the Texas Supreme Court recently issued their THIRTY-SIXTH EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING THE COVID-19 STATE OF DISASTER. This Order allows Courts in the State of Texas to return to In-Person proceedings and we intend to return to such In-Person proceedings effective April 1, 2021.

Docket days and all other proceedings not involving a jury will be held at their usual locations (the North Burnet County Annex Courtrooms, the Blanco County Annex Courtroom, the Llano County Courthouse, and the San Saba County Courthouse), but Jury Proceedings will be held at larger venues to allow for social distancing of all participants, to include prospective jurors and jury members when conducting their deliberations. As for Burnet and Llano Counties, we currently intend to hold our jury proceedings at the Burnet Agrilife Building and the Llano Community Center. We are hopeful to hold jury proceedings in San Saba at the San Saba Community Center, but that has not yet been finalized and is subject to change. As for Blanco County, we are working on options for how to proceed with jury proceedings and no location has yet been identified.

For all proceedings, whether a regular docket day, evidentiary hearing, or a jury proceeding, we encourage participants to wear masks. However, per the Supreme Court Order, we will require that all participants either wear masks or maintain 6 foot social distancing at all times within our Court facilities. If a participant chooses not to wear a mask, any such participant needs to maintain at least 6 feet of social distancing at all times. In Burnet, we plan to open both Courtrooms to make sure that sufficient space is available to allow for such social distancing. We also plan to schedule no more than a certain number of cases at one time, in all counties, to allow for sufficient space for social distancing. It is expected that we will have a number of cases on our docket for 9:00 a.m. and a second group of cases to be called at 10:30 a.m., for example, to limit the number of people present at one time and thus allow for social distancing. If any Court participant suffers from COVID-19 or has been recently exposed to the virus, such participant is not to enter the building. If such participant is a Criminal Defendant, that person will be expected to provide medical documentation to support their claimed inability to attend Court or run the risk of having their bond found insufficient and a warrant being issued.

The above protocols shall apply to all proceedings in the 33rd and 424th District Courts effective immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as they are modified or eliminated. We appreciate your cooperation in moving forward with in-person proceedings and we look forward to seeing you all in the near future.

Very truly yours,

Allan Carrett, Presiding Judge 33rd Judicial District Court

Evan Stubbs, Presiding Judge 424th Judicial District Court