

From: Texas Justice Court Training Center <tjctcoffice@txstate.edu>

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Subject: Supreme Court Halts Eviction Cases Through April 19

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3/19 Coronavirus Update

All,

In an effort to make accessing critical information easier, TJCTC will send a single daily update with new updates and information related to the coronavirus pandemic. As always, stay tuned to www.tjctc.org/coronavirus for updates as well.

Supreme Court Eviction Order

On March 19th, the Texas Supreme Court issued an order stopping eviction cases through April 19, 2020. All deadlines are paused until the expiration of the order.

Writs of possession may not be executed, including the posting of the written warning notice, until April 26, 2020. The 60 and 90 day deadlines in Rule 510.8(d) are paused until the expiration of the order.

Courts may continue to accept filings, but may not issue citation until April 19, 2020. The 10-21 day trial window is paused until the expiration of the order.

An exception exists if the plaintiff files a petition stating that there is imminent threat of harm to the plaintiff, the plaintiff's employees, or other tenants, or criminal activity. If a court finds the sworn petition presents this scenario, the court creates a procedure and timeframe for the case to process in a manner

that protects health and safety (such as electronically or via telephone).

Additionally, the Supreme Court issued an update to their emergency order clarifying that non-essential cases must not exceed local, state, or federal gathering restrictions, which Gov. Abbott has currently capped at ten (10) people.

Go to our coronavirus info page to read the full text of the orders.

Wedding Issues During the Pandemic

Judges have asked how to handle weddings during this unique situation. We believe that judges can perform weddings electronically, as long as all parties are located in Texas. In-person ceremonies should be limited, and must not exceed Governor Abbott's ten-person maximum. Additionally, you should not have people grouped together or lined up awaiting a ceremony.

Stay safe, calm, and vigilant!
Thea & the TJCTC Legal Team

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