



## **FRIO COUNTY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE OFFICES**

**March 18, 2020**

### **TEMPORARY STANDING ORDER REGARDING CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) MITIGATION TO ALL FRIO COUNTY JUSTICES OF THE PEACE (JUSTICE COURT)**

Due to coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and by the authority granted by law and by the "FIRST EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING THE COVID-19 STATE OF DISASTER" order by the Supreme Court of Texas and Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas, the four Justices of the Peace in Frio County (referred to as the Justices of the Peace) issue the following order to protect the community and court staff by limiting exposure to COVID-19:

This order took effect March 13, 2020 and end on May 8, 2020, unless the Governor, Greg Abbott, issues change to the Declared a State of Disaster for All Texas Counties and to the Texas Supreme Court (or its delegate) authorizes new rules during the disaster, in which case a new order for the Justices of the Peace will be issued in compliance with the most recent order. If the Office of Court Administration issues updated guidance, the Justices of the Peace, will amend this order accordingly.

1. All scheduled court proceeding except for essential court proceedings, will be reset to a date after May 8, 2020. All courts in Texas may extend the statute of limitations in any civil or criminal case for a stated period ending no later than 30 days after the Governor's state of disaster has been lifted.
2. "Essential court proceedings" are defined as: writ of re-entry; writ of retrieval; writs of restoration; magistration of defendants in custody and of fugitives from justice (in or out of custody; death certificates, or burial transit permits; repair and remedy cases that materially affect the physical health or safety of a tenant; and any proceedings necessary to enforce a governmental entity's response to a COVID-19 declaration of state of disaster.
3. No eviction settings (both residential and commercial) will be held until after May 8, 2020. No writs of possession will be issued by a Justice Court for 60 days after the date of this order.
4. For traffic/Class C citations with an appearance date prior to May 8, 2020, the appearance date will be extended and the court will notify defendants of a new rescheduled appearance date by mail. This applies to cite-and-release charges and summonses for charges other and Class C misdemeanors as well. No warrants due to failing to appear for traffic/Class C citation, cite-and-release charge, or a summons will be issued for 60 days from the order.

5. In order to alleviate the threat of COVID-19 in County Jails, the Justices of the Peace temporarily suspend active warrants for all misdemeanor Class C offenses from their courts, until May 8, 2020. All the requirements and conditions of the warrants previously signed by the Justices of the Peace remain in effect but are suspended during this state of emergency. For the effective suspension, the Frio County Sheriff's Office, Frio County Constables, and all other law enforcement agencies are directed to relate this order to all enforcement officers requesting confirmation of warrants, so that they are aware not to bring Class C defendants to the jail.
6. The Constables of Frio County are authorized that they may not serve non-essential Justice Court papers if it is in their best discretion based on the public's health and deputy constable's safety through May 8, 2020. Failure to serve papers based on this order shall not be considered by any court with regard to statute of limitations or diligent service analysis.
7. New filings with payment shall be sent via mail to the Justice Court's designated mail and you may retrieve Court paperwork from the Frio County Justice Court's website only until May 8, 2020, unless there is a change of order. New filings court date will not be set till after May 8, 2020.

Our normal hours of operations are:

Monday thru Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday 8 a.m. to 12 noon

Due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and by the authority granted by law and by the "FIRST EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING THE COVID-19 STATE OF DISASTER" ordered by the Supreme Court of Texas and Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas, **the Justices of the Peace offices will not have any person-to-person contact.**

If you received a courtesy letter, please read it in its entirety before calling the court.

If you wish to make a payment, you can go to:

[www.paymentgroup.com](http://www.paymentgroup.com) or call 1-800-444-1187 or you can mail your payment to:

**JP#1**

Justice of the Peace, Pct 1  
500 E. San Antonio St, Box 9  
Pearsall, TX 78061  
(830)334-3668

**JP#2**

Justice of the Peace, Pct 2  
PO Box 751  
Pearsall, TX 78061  
(830)334-8292

**JP#3**

Justice of the Peace, Pct 3  
500 E. San Antonio St, Box 13  
Pearsall, TX 78061  
(830)334-2911

**JP#4**

Justice of the Peace, Pct 4  
PO Box 2206  
Dilley, TX 78017  
(830)965-2009

This order shall be posted outside of each Justice Court and on the Frio County Justice Court Website.

The time periods in this order may be extended in a subsequent order if required.

Signed on March 18, 2020

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge Susana Ruiz-Belding

On behalf of the Justices of the Peace in Frio County, TX

