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**Walker County Justice
Courts**

PRECINCT NUMBER FOUR

Judge Stephen P. Cole
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**TEMPORARY STANDING ORDER REGARDING CONORNAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)
MITIGATION AND ALL JUSTICE COURTS IN WALKER COUNTY
(Order No. 01 — March 18, 2020)**

Due to coronavirus disease (COVID-19), all four Justice Courts in Walker County issued the following order based on the Office of Court Administration's "Updated Guidance #1 on Court Procedures for the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)." All four Justice Courts will be closed to the public. All phone calls will be answered during each court's normal business hours. All filings will continue to be accepted via mail or use of the drop box until normal court operations resume. This order is issued to protect the community, limit exposure, and provide for an efficient judicial system:

1. This order will stay in effect unless the Governor of Texas amends the current disaster declaration and the Texas Supreme Court (or its delegate) authorizes new rules during the disaster, in which case a new order for the four Justice Courts in Walker County will be issued comporting to the declaration and rules. If the Office of Court Administration issues updated guidance, the four Justice Courts in Walker, County will amend this order accordingly.
2. All scheduled court proceedings except for "essential court proceedings" will be reset. Each court will contact the litigants to notify them of the new reset date as soon as practicable for the court. Essential court proceedings are:
 - *Writs of re-entry*
 - *Writs of retrieval*
 - *Writs of restoration*
 - *Magistration of defendants in custody and of fugitives of justice (in or out of custody)*
 - *Repair and Remedy Cases that materially affect the physical health or safety of a tenant*
 - *Inquest*
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 until May 13, 2020.
4. The Constables of Walker County are authorized that they may not serve 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.
5. For traffic/Class C citations the appearance date will be extended and the court will notify defendants of a new rescheduled appearance date. This applies to cite-and-release charges and summonses for charges other than Class C misdemeanors as well. No warrants due to failing to appear for a traffic/Class C citation, cite-and-release charge, or a summons will be issued until further notice.

Signed on March 18, 2020 at 3:30 PM

A handwritten signature of Judge Stephen P. Cole, written in black ink, is positioned above a horizontal line.

Judge Stephen P. Cole

On behalf of the Justice Courts in Walker County, TX

