



CITY OF DENISON
MUNICIPAL COURT

ORDER NO. 20-0001
FIRST EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING
THE COVID-19 STATE OF DISASTER

WHEREAS, Governor Abbott has declared a state of disaster in all 254 counties in the State of Texas in response to the imminent threat of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Texas in conjunction with the Court of Criminal Appeals have issued a joint emergency order in response to the imminent threat of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, after consulting with the Department of State Health Services, the Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeals, and the Regional Presiding Judges, the Office of Court Administration has issued guidance for courts to reduce the impact of the virus on parties, jurors, the public, judges, and staff; and

WHEREAS, the presiding judge of the Denison Municipal Court has determined that this order is necessary for the benefit of the court and for the protection of parties, jurors, the public, judges and staff to implement this order.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. All March and April court dockets are cancelled. The clerk of the court shall place all open cases on the next available docket and provide notice to each defendant.
2. Warrants for any defendant currently scheduled on a docket will be lifted until court dockets resume.
3. All magistrature duties of the court will be completed through a remote video-conferencing service.
4. As of the date of this Order, the municipal court window shall be open to the public. All municipal court filings or payments are encouraged to be completed through mail, electronic mail, facsimile, or through the online payment portal. However, should City Hall close to the public, all court business must be conducted by

alternative means, such as mail, electronic mail, facsimile, telephone or through the online payment portal.

5. All deadlines shall be extended for 30 days after the Governor's state of disaster has been lifted.
6. Any person who has COVID-19, flu-like symptoms, a fever, cough, or sneezing, is hereby **ENJOINED** and **PROHIBITED** from appearing at or in the Denison Municipal Court

This order is effective as of March 16, 2020 and expires on April 30, 2020, unless extended by the Presiding Judge.

The Court Administrator of the Municipal Court is **ORDERED** to:

1. Post a copy of this Order on the City's website; and
2. File a copy of this order with the Office of the Court Administrator.

SIGNED and entered this 16th day of March, 2020.



DONALD M. BANMAN, Presiding Judge