

CHARLES M. WOLF
WINKLER COUNTY JUDGE

P.O. Drawer Y
Kermit, TX 79745
(432) 586-6658
Fax (432) 586-3223

Debbie Simmons
Administrative Assistant

**TEMPORARY EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING PROCEEDINGS
BEFORE THE COUNTY COURT
WINKLER COUNTY, TEXAS**

State officials, and other appropriate agencies, have considered the implementation of measures necessary to address the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Governor Abbott has issued a disaster proclamation. The Texas Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals have issued emergency orders modifying and suspending certain provisions which relate to the administration of court proceedings. *See Supreme Court Misc. Docket No. 20-9042 and Court of Criminal Appeals Misc. Docket No. 20-007 (March 13, 2020).* The Office of Court Administration (OCA) and the Presiding Judges for the eleven Administrative Judicial Regions of Texas have promulgated recommendations and guidelines for the courts to consider in pursuing effective docket control and court management during this time of uncertainty.

In light of the aforementioned orders, declarations and recommendations, and being mindful of the Judiciary's responsibility to invoke procedures that are necessary to protect the health and safety of the public under the existing circumstances, IT IS ORDERED that:

IT IS ORDERED that, excepting essential matters as set forth herein, all trial settings scheduled in the County Court of Winkler County for the period March 16, 2020 through April 3, 2020 are VACATED and shall be rescheduled to a later date.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that to the extent practicable, and consistent with the above directives and recommendations, the Court shall schedule the following essential matters during the stated period of this order:

- (a) Arraignments, guilty pleas, probation revocations, writs of habeas corpus, and bond requests involving defendants who are in custody;
- (b) Applications for the appointment of counsel submitted by indigent defendants who are in custody;
- (c) Applications for temporary restraining orders and temporary injunctions;
- (d) Suits brought under Chapter 157, Texas Family Code, specifically writs of habeas corpus, writs of attachment for children, and enforcement actions in which a Respondent is incarcerated;
- (e) Summary judgment motions by submission;

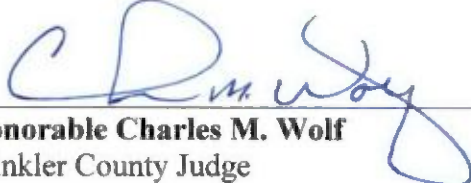
- (f) Other applications for emergency relief;
- (g) Any hearings requiring only the presence of counsel, i.e. hearings for entry of orders, etc.; and
- (h) Any other hearing determined by a court to be necessary to the administration of justice.

These scheduling limitations shall remain in effect through April 3, 2020, or upon further order of the Court. The Court may issue amended or supplemental orders.

All attorneys **shall** inquire as to whether any party or necessary participant to a proceeding has or knows of another participant who has, COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms, or a fever, cough or sneezing, or has recently visited an area with a known outbreak of the Covid-19 virus. If any of these conditions apply the attorney **shall** contact the court for guidance in proceeding before the scheduled hearing.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding a specific case, please contact the court in which the case is pending.

SIGNED March 16, 2020.



Honorable Charles M. Wolf
Winkler County Judge