

Patricia Muniz
Chief Deputy Court Clerk

Crystal A. Tovar
Justice Court Clerk



Hon. Narce D. Villarreal
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
KINNEY COUNTY, TEXAS
P.O. Drawer 389
501 South Ann Street
Brackettville, Texas 78832-0389
Tel. (830) 563-2881 Fax (830) 563-3077
Email: kcjpvillarreal@co.kinney.tx.us
Website: <http://www.co.kinney.tx.us>

**STANDING ORDER REGARDING CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)
MITIGATION TO KINNEY COUNTY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE (JUSTICE COURT)
UPDATED MARCH 17, 2020 (Order No. 02)**

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" ordered by the Supreme Court of Texas and Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas, the Justice of the Peace in Kinney County issues the following order based on my previous order (Order No. 1) to protect the community and limit exposure to COVID-19:

1. All scheduled court proceedings except for essential court proceedings will be reset to a date after May 8, 2020.
2. "Essential court proceedings" are defined as: writs of re-entry; writs of retrieval; writs of restoration; magistration of defendants in custody and of fugitives from justice (in or out of custody); issuing birth certificates, 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 the Justice Court until May 13, 2020.
4. This order does not diminish the Justice of the Peace's ability to continue to issue judgments, orders and rulings by submission if already authorized by law to do so for non-eviction cases.
5. For traffic/Class C citations with an appearance date prior to May 8, 2020, the appearance date will be extended and the Justice Court will notify defendants of a rescheduled appearance date by mailing notice to the last address on record with the Court (defendants should check the court's website weekly for updates and email the Court any updated mailing address). This applies to cite-and-release charges and summons for charges other than Class C misdemeanors as well.

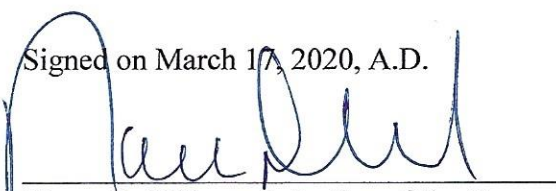
6. No warrants based on failing to appear or for violating a promise to appear to a Justice Court for a traffic/Class C citation, cite-and-release charge, or a summons will be issued until June 15, 2020.
7. In order to alleviate the threat of COVID-19 in County Jails, the Justice of the Peace temporarily 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 Justice of the Peace remain in effect but are suspended during this state of emergency. For the effective suspension, the Kinney County Sheriff's office, Kinney County Constable, and all other law enforcement agencies are directed to relate this order to all law enforcement officers requesting confirmation of warrants, so that they are aware not to bring Class C defendants to the jail.

Therefore, all warrants for misdemeanor Class C offenses from the Justice of the Peace are temporarily suspended until May 8, 2020. For the duration of this suspension, the Kinney County Sheriff's Office is ordered to not accept a defendant who solely has a Class C misdemeanor warrant from the Kinney County Justice of the Peace.
8. The Constable of Kinney County is authorized that he may not serve Justice Court papers if it is in his best discretion based on the public's health and constable's safety through May 8, 2020. Failure to serve papers based on this order shall not be considered by any court with regards to statute of limitations or diligent service analysis. The Constable of Kinney County must continue to serve Justice Court papers with regard to essential court proceedings in all instances.
9. New filings shall be limited to the Justice Court's designated filing email as noticed in the Justice Court website only until May 8, 2020.
10. The Justice Court is authorized to limit building access to comply with any recommendations/orders from county public health officials regarding limiting the number of people in a public space or room, including but not limited to screening whether a person's business with the Justice Court falls into essential court business and limiting the hours a Justice Court is open to the public. If the Justice Court limits the hours it is open to the public, notice of such limitations shall be posted on the Justice Court's official website and at its main entrance.
11. All deadlines or statutes of limitation calculations are tolled effective March 19, 2020 to May 8, 2020.

This order shall be posted outside the Justice Court and on the Justice Court's official website.

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

Signed on March 17, 2020, A.D.


Narce D. Villarreal, Justice of the Peace
In and for Kinney County, Texas

