

**IN THE 506TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
OF WALLER COUNTY, TEXAS**

Court Appearances (Amended)
Through July 1, 2020

In light of the COVID-19 crisis, the Court hereby ORDERS the following procedures to be implemented for all Court appearances currently set from now through July 1, 2020, in Waller County. All attorneys and court staff are asked to assist in implementing this plan and these Orders. Questions and comments are welcome through the Court's email addresses found on the website.

**Contact with the Court Coordinator shall be via email.
All courtesies and patience will be greatly appreciated.**

ATTORNEYS: Under no circumstances are you or your client required to personally appear for any proceedings from this date through July 1, 2020, unless specifically notified to do so by this Court. Attorneys are responsible for notifying defendants not to attend. In all communications with the Court Coordinator or the Court, include the full cause number and full name of the defendant as shown on the indictment.

1. **Arraignments:**

- a. All in-person settings are passed through July 1, 2020.
- b. Inmates will **not** be brought to the Courthouse.
- c. **Attorneys:** If you represent a defendant set for arraignment, contact the Court Coordinator NOW *via email* and request a Scheduling Order which includes a waiver of arraignment. If possible, have it signed by your client. If your client is not available, you sign it and note on it that the client is not available. You are responsible for advising defendants of future settings. Return the completed Scheduling Order to the Coordinator via fax or email prior to the scheduled setting dated.

2. **Afternoon Dockets:**

- a. All in-person settings are passed through July 1, 2020.
- b. Inmates will **not** be brought to the Courthouse.
- c. **Motions & Status Settings:** Attorneys, if your client is set for either a Status or Motions setting, contact the Coordinator immediately (*via email*). Your case will be reset to a later ancillary docket that applies to your case. You will receive a Scheduling Order via email that you are to sign and return to the Coordinator no later than the scheduled setting date. If your client is available to sign, please have them sign. If the client cannot sign or is not available, indicate that on the form prior to returning it to the Coordinator. You are responsible to advising defendants of future settings.
- b. **Pretrial Settings:** Trial readiness announcements will be made via email or fax, as

Ready or *Not Ready*. If you announce *Not Ready*, your case will be assigned a new pretrial date. If you announce *Not Ready* you are required to file a Motion for Continuance stating your reasons. If you announce *Ready*, your case will remain on or be assigned to a trial date in the usual manner.

3. **Probation Docket:**

- a. All in-person settings are passed through July 1, 2020.
- b. Inmates will **not** be brought to the Courthouse.
- c. The Court Coordinator and the Adult Probation Department (CSCD) will contact all probationers and provide a new court date. **Under no circumstances are attorneys or probationers required to personally appear in court.**

4. **Bond Hearings & Reductions:**

See Emergency Orders issued by this Court on Jail Inmate Bond Review Procedures dated May 5, 2020, on the Court's website. (www.court506.com)

5. **Plea Bargains and Other Sentencing:**


Plea bargains or other sentencing shall be conducted on a case-by-case basis via Zoom teleconference.

6. **Online Court Proceedings:**

See the Court's website for instructions and procedures for conducting Online Court Proceedings via Zoom teleconference.

This situation is fluid and information is being updated daily. Changes will occur so be ready to respond as necessary. These Orders do not reduce the duties of attorneys and defendants to meet their respective obligations.

Signed and entered May 6, 2020, at 10:00 o'clock a.m.



JUDGE, PRESIDING