

## **BASTROP COUNTY JUSTICES OF THE PEACE**

*Judge Cindy Allen PCT. 1 Judge Raymah Davis PCT. 2 Judge Katherine Hanna PCT. 3. Judge Larry Dunne PCT. 4*

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### **STANDING ORDER REGARDING CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) MITIGATION TO ALL BASTROP COUNTY JUSTICES OF THE PEACE (JUSTICE COURT) MARCH 27, 2020.**

Due to the 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 four Justices of the Peace in Bastrop County (referred to as the Justice of the Peace) issued the following order 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 entry; writs of retrieval; writs of restoration; magistraton of defendants in custody and of fugitives from justice (in or out of custody; issuing death certificates, repair and remedy cases that materially affect the physical health or safety of a tenant; and any proceedings necessary to enforce a government 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 writ of possessions will be issued by a Justice Court until May 13, 2020.
4. This order does not diminish the Justices 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. Traffic Offenses /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 address: This applies to cite-and-release charges and summonses for charges other than Class C Misdemeanor as well.
6. No WARRANT based on failing to appear or for violating a promise to appear to 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 warrant previously signed by the Justice of the Peace remain in effect but are suspended during this State of Emergency. For the effective suspension, the Bastrop County Sheriff's Office, 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.

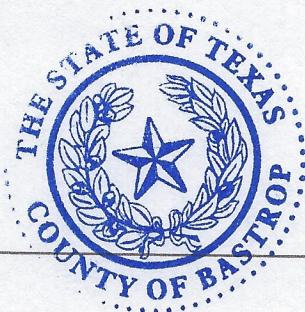
Therefore, all warrants for misdemeanor Class C offenses from the JUSTICE OF THE PEACES are temporarily suspended until May 8, 2020. For the duration of this suspension, the Bastrop County Sheriff's Office is ordered to not accept a defendant who solely has a Class C Misdemeanor warrant from the Bastrop County Justices of the Peace.

8. The Constables of Bastrop County may continue to serve Justice Court papers with regard of essential court proceedings in all instances.
9. New Filings may be emailed or mailed as noticed in each Justice Court's website only until May 8, 2020.
10. All Justice Courts in Bastrop County will not be open to the public in order to ensure the safety of our Employees and the Public until further notice. Our staff is available by phone, mail, or email to assist the public. Please visit Bastrop County website for each individual Court hours of operation at (co.bastrop.tx.gov)
11. All deadlines or Statutes of limitation calculations are tolled effective March 26, 2020 through May 8, 2020.

This order shall be posted outside each Justice Court and on each Justice Court's official website. This time period in this order may be extended in a subsequent order if required.

Signed on March 27, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

*C. Allen*



Judge Cindy Allen Pct. One

On behalf of the Justices of the Peace in Bastrop County, Texas

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