



THE 255TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

Judge Kim Cooks, District Judge

Judge Scott Beauchamp, Associate Judge

Deborah Nelson, Court Coordinator

255th PROCEDURES DURING COVID-19

THE SIGNING OF ORDERS

The Court will only sign agreed orders where the trial has been completed, agreed modifications, agreed final decree of divorce, or on cases that have been proved up. Please email your orders to (deborah.nelson@dallascounty.org) No default orders will be signed at this time.

CURRENT TRIAL SETTINGS ON JUDGE COOKS' DOCKET

The Coordinator will email the attorneys the week prior to your trial setting to inform the attorneys that their case will be going to trial as scheduled via ZOOM. The Coordinator will provide the ZOOM Video Access code and the code will be provided to the public upon email request to the Court Coordinator.

THE SETTING OF HEARINGS ON JUDGE BEAUCHAMP'S DOCKET

To obtain an essential hearing, email Judge Beauchamp (scott.beauchamp@dallascounty.org) to request a setting for your essential hearing.

Emergency Ex Parte Orders

- Efile the motion and proposed order along with the certificate of conference.
- Email the Court Coordinator (deborah.nelson@dallascounty.org), Judge Beauchamp (scott.beauchamp@dallascounty.org), and email all attorneys or self-represented parties with the motion, proposed order, and certificate of conference. You will be informed via email regarding a setting.

RULES FOR VIDEO HEARINGS AND TRIALS

The 255th Court will be using ZOOM Video Conferencing. It is a free app that can be downloaded to your cell phone or computer and requires internet access. The use of a video camera is required. The Court Coordinator or Judge will email the link to your hearing/trial.

If you intend to offer exhibits during the hearing before Judge Beauchamp, the exhibits will need to be emailed to everyone including Judge Beauchamp (scott.beauchamp@dallascounty.org) no later than noon the day before the hearing/trial. The exhibits must be pre-marked and in PDF form.

If you intend to offer exhibits during the hearing/trial before Judge Cooks, the exhibits will need to be emailed to everyone including the court coordinator (deborah.nelson@dallascounty.org) no later than noon the day before the hearing/trial. The exhibits must be pre-marked and in PDF form.

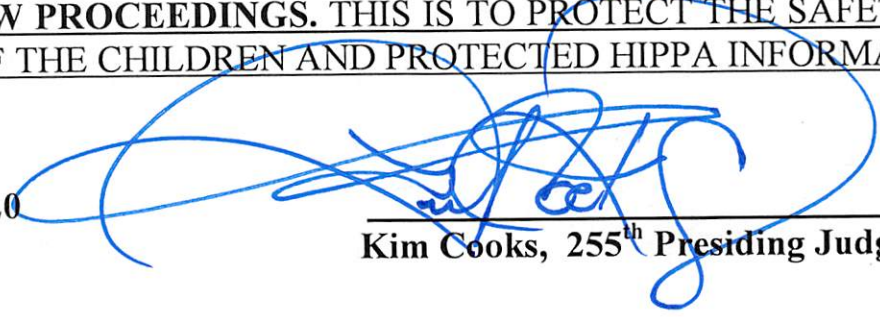
WITNESSES

Witnesses MUST appear by video. The attorney calling the witness is responsible for ensuring that the witness has a separate video and audio source. Attorneys are prohibited from sharing a connection with a witness. It is the responsibility of the attorney offering the witness to provide the link to the court proceeding and that the witness has all the exhibits being offered into evidence.

PUBLIC ACCESS

THE OPEN COURTS PROVISION OF TEXAS LAW ALLOWS ACCESS TO COURT PROCEEDINGS. AS SUCH, ANYONE MAY EMAIL THE COURT COORDINATOR TO GET THE ACCESS CODE TO HEARINGS/TRIALS. IF YOU ARE VIEWING, PLEASE MUTE YOUR CONNECTION TO PREVENT DISRUPTION TO THE COURT PROCEEDINGS. ANY VIDEO OR AUDIO RECORDING IS PROHIBITED DUE TO THE SENSITIVE NATURE OF FAMILY LAW PROCEEDINGS. THIS IS TO PROTECT THE SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE CHILDREN AND PROTECTED HIPPA INFORMATION.

March 27, 2020



Kim Cooks, 255th Presiding Judge