



May 4, 2020

Based on the Governor's Orders, I have concluded that law offices may not open yet. My analysis follows. Law Offices are not among those listed for Reopened Services in Executive Order GA-18. Those services are limited to:

- Retail services
- Restaurants
- Movie theaters
- Shopping malls
- Museums and libraries
- Services provided by an individual working alone in an office
- Golf courses
- Local government operations

Law Offices are not among those listed in the definition of Essential Businesses under the Dallas County Stay at Home Order with the narrow exception provided under Professional Services as follows: “Professional services, such as legal or accounting services, *when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities or services necessary to avoid imminent harm to a client.*”

Both GA-18 and the Dallas County Order are effective until May 15. Accordingly, law offices should remain closed until that date. The Governor has indicated that he plans to add additional business to the list of businesses that can reopen in mid-May.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clay Lewis Jenkins".

Clay Jenkins

Dallas County Judge