

Travis County Civil Courts
Heman Marion Sweatt Courthouse
Post Office Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767
512/854-9300

MEMORANDUM

TO: Travis County Attorneys, Litigants, Bar Associations and the General Public

FROM: Travis County Civil District and County Court at Law Judges

DATE: September 8, 2020

RE: Remote Jury Trials in Travis County

The Travis County Civil Judges are pleased to announce that, beginning Monday, October 12, 2020, the District and County Courts are ready to conduct remote jury trials.¹ We have been working in cooperation with the Travis County District Clerk, Court Administration, our IT experts, court reporters, and volunteer lawyers and law students to develop, test, and refine the procedures necessary for remote jury trials. If all parties are ready to try a remote jury trial, we need your announcement of “ready” in advance of the usual announcement period. Consequently, please contact the Travis County Court Administrator’s Office at (512) 854-4486, no later than September 16, 2020, so that we can make sure you are specially set for jury trial on October 12, 2020. To announce “ready” for civil cases filed in the County Courts at Law, please e-mail to: CCL1.submissions@traviscountytx.gov or CCL2.submissions@traviscountytx.gov.

We are excited about this opportunity and look forward to working with you to continue to provide access to justice in Travis County.

If you are not ready for your previously scheduled jury trial on October 12, 2020, we need to know that information before the standard announcement period as well. You

¹ If you would like to participate in a remote jury trial before October 12, 2020, the Travis County Remote Jury Trial Pilot Program has settings available for a remote jury trial with consenting parties on September 14 and September 28, 2020. Contact 250.submission@traviscountytx.gov to participate.

have two options: 1) if all parties agree, you may alert the Court Administrator of your agreement to pass the setting and reset your case to another docket; or 2) in the absence of an agreement, you may seek a continuance of the trial setting by filing a motion for continuance by 5:00 p.m. on September 16, 2020.

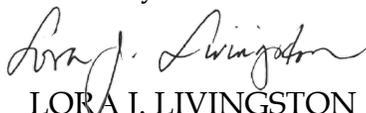
You must send a courtesy copy of your motion to the Court Administrator at the following email address: traviscivilcourts@traviscountytx.gov

Requests for continuance will be considered on submission. You will be notified if a hearing on the motion for continuance is required by the Court.

Due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency, jury trial announcement deadlines will be accelerated. The deadline to comply with options 1) or 2) above shall be 5 p.m. on the Wednesday that is four (4) weeks prior to the jury trial setting. For example, the deadline for announcement for jury trials set on October 26, 2020 is September 30, 2020.

We understand that there have been considerable changes to rules and procedures during the COVID-19 State of Emergency. Our goal is to continue to conduct the important business of litigation, while maintaining public safety and security. We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,



LORA J. LIVINGSTON
Local Administrative Judge
Travis County, Texas