

Justice of the Peace, Precinct One Angelina County, Texas

Modified Civil Court Operations Due to COVID 19

Civil Cases in Justice Court, Precinct One, Angelina County, Texas

MODIFYING OR SUSPENDING DEADLINES AND PROCEDURES

Updated: 12/29/2020

Pursuant to the Texas Supreme Court Emergency Order No. 29, no In-Person Hearings/Trials will be set effective 1/1/2021.

All Proceedings will be heard via ZOOM (remote hearings/trials).

No jury trials will be held until further notice.

Effective June 1, 2020, eviction cases have resumed. Evictions may be filed, served, and heard.

The postponement of statutes of limitations that fall/fell between March 13, 2020 to July 1, 2020 have been extended to September 30, 2020.

Answers to civil lawsuits that are/were due between March 13, 2020 to September 16, 2020 have been extended to September 30, 2020.

No Default Judgment, that has been served but not answered, will be issued before September 30, 2020 if the Defendant's Answer in the case fell/falls due between March 13, 2020 to September 16, 2020

PRESENTING EVIDENCE IN CIVIL CASES (Other than Evictions)

Hearings will be set at least 30 days from the time the notice is mailed out.

This is to allow time for both parties to present ALL evidence that will be presented to the Court, to the opposing party as well. This should be done by email, fax, or mail. All evidence should be presented to the Court **and the opposing party** no later than 14 days prior to the hearing. **Failure to provide all evidence to the Court and the opposing party will result in a reset of the hearing or denial of admittance of the evidence.**

Both parties shall provide an acknowledgment to the Court and the opposing party that they received the evidence. If you are providing photographs as part of your evidence, they must be in color and mailed to the Court and mailed or emailed to the opposing party. Faxed or emailed copies of photographs will not be accepted by the Court.

PRESENTING EVIDENCE IN EVICTION CASES

All parties must present ALL evidence to the Court and the opposing party. This should be done by email, fax, or mail. All evidence should be presented to the Court **and the opposing party** no later than **5 days prior** to the hearing. **Failure to provide all evidence to the Court and the opposing party will result in a reset of the hearing or denial of admittance of the evidence.** Both parties shall provide an acknowledgment to the Court and the opposing party that they received the evidence. If you are providing photographs as part of your evidence, they must be in color and mailed to the Court and mailed or emailed to the opposing party. Faxed or emailed copies of photographs will not be accepted by the Court.

The Court has implemented ZOOM remote hearings. It is imperative that the Court know whether or not parties have the capability to participate in a remote hearing. If you receive a hearing notice and are not capable of participating in a remote hearing, notify the Court immediately.

For more detailed information, please review the JP1 Modified Court Procedures – COVID-19 at <https://www.angelinacounty.net/jp1/> under Rules and Information.

HELPFUL LINKS

Texas Law Help Coronavirus Resources - <https://texaslawhelp.org/article/coronavirus-covid-19>

Office of Court Administration Coronavirus Resources - <https://www.txcourts.gov/court-coronavirus-information/>

Texas Apartment Association - <https://www.taa.org/resources/useful-resources-for-responding-to-covid-19-novel-coronavirus/>

State Bar of Texas Alternative Dispute Resolution Section's website: <https://texasadr.org/>.

Resources for CARES Act coverage of properties:

Anyone can access these online databases for CARES Act covered properties:

- The National Low Income Housing Coalition's database of covered multifamily properties: <https://www.nlihc.org/federal-moratoriums>
- The National Housing Preservation Database of multifamily properties with certain federal subsidies: <https://preservationdatabase.org>
- Fannie Mae: <https://www.knowyouroptions.com/rentersresourcefinder>

- Freddie Mac: <https://myhome.freddiemac.com/renting/lookup.html>
- Texas RioGrande Legal Aid/Texas Housers/BASTA Austin map: <https://TXCARESact.org>

Landlords/homeowners can also access the following:

- Call the FHA, VA, USDA, Fannie Mae, or Freddie Mac escalation number to inquire as to the status of their mortgage:
<https://www.hmpadmin.com/portal/resources/advisors/escalation.jsp>.
- Look up if Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac own their mortgage at:
 - <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/ask-cfpb/how-can-i-tell-who-owns-my-mortgage-en-214/>
 - Fannie Mae: <https://www.knowyouroptions.com/loanlookup>
 - Freddie Mac: <https://ww3.freddiemac.com/loanlookup/>