

**SHANE LONG  
COUNTY JUDGE  
PALO PINTO COUNTY COURT**

**ORDER SUSPENDING CERTAIN PROCEEDINGS DUE TO THE COVID-19  
STATE OF DISASTER**

Whereas on March 13, 2020 Governor Greg Abbott declared a state of disaster in all 254 counties in the State of Texas in response to the imminent threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, the undersigned finds that the following orders are appropriate, reasonable and necessary as all non-essential, in person proceedings may pose an unnecessary or unreasonable risk to participants, court staff and the public.

**IT IS THEREFORE, ORDERED THAT:**

1. All non-essential proceedings are hereby suspended and will not be heard until at least May 1, 2020.
2. Essential proceedings are not suspended. However, the Court will conduct essential proceedings in a manner consistent with the best practices for reducing the threat of exposure to COVID-19. Essential proceedings consist of criminal magistrate proceedings, mental commitment hearings, and juvenile detention hearings.
3. Any and all persons who are to appear before the Palo Pinto County Court who have COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms, a fever, or who are coughing or sneezing, are ordered to contact the court at the telephone number below before appearing.
4. All attorneys who know that clients, witnesses, or others have such a condition are ordered to alert the court that such conditions exist in advance. When these conditions are present, the court will make reasonable accommodations and reschedule appearances and hearings as needed.
5. This Order is effective immediately and expires May 1, 2020, unless extended by the undersigned.


6. The Clerk of the Palo Pinto County Court is directed to:

- Notify the Office of Court Administration by email at [court closures@txcourts.gov](mailto:court closures@txcourts.gov) with information about the closure or fill out the webform with information about the closure.
- Send a copy of this Order to the attorneys and self-represented litigants with cases scheduled on this court's docket affected by this Order.

7. If you need to contact the Palo Pinto County Court because you have symptoms or if you have questions about the scheduling of a case you can contact the Court Coordinator:

By telephone at (940) 659-1253 or by email at [lauretta.poole@co.palo-pinto.tx.us](mailto:lauretta.poole@co.palo-pinto.tx.us)

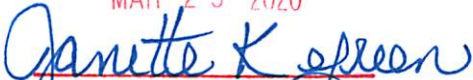

Signed on the 23 day of March, 2020.

  
Shane Long, County Judge  
Palo Pinto County



**FILED**  
At 3:21 O'Clock P M.

MAR 23 2020

  
Clerk of the County Court  
Palo Pinto County, Texas  
By  Deputy