FOURTEENTH AMENDED NOTICE REGARDING COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 1 COURT PROCEDURES

Last Updated: January 4, 2023

In compliance with the 59th Emergency Order issued by the Texas Supreme Court, and Orders issued by the Local Administrative Judge, County Court at Law No. 1 will continue to conduct certain proceedings through remote video conferencing technology (i.e. Zoom) that help assist with the Court's backlog. These hearings include but are not limited to Uncontested Probate Dockets, Civil Motions Docket, and Criminal Status Dockets. You shall receive notice of your remote video conferencing docket on the Court issued docket control order, email or reset form. You will find the Court's Video Conferencing Policy and Procedures under the Documents & Form tab of County Court at Law No. 1's website.

CRIMINAL DOCKETS

Effective January 13, 2023, Friday morning Criminal Arraignment Dockets shall return to ***IN-PERSON HEARINGS***. All Defendants and Attorneys are expected to appear in-person at 8:30 a.m., as per the Defendant's bonding paperwork.

At the Criminal Arraignment Docket, the Court will implement a Criminal Docket Control Order ("DCO") in all criminal cases scheduled during that docket. All dates applicable to the Defendant's case will be entered on the DCO. The Court's Electronic Reset Form will ***NO*** longer be utilized in DCO entered cases. The Court's Electronic Reset Form will ***NO*** longer be utilized in all criminal cases after April 3, 2023.

CRIMINAL PLEAS

If an attorney wishes to plea a Defendant on a date not listed on the DCO, please contact the Court Coordinator. If the Defendant fails to finally dispose of the matter at a plea docket, the DCO shall remain in place and the Defendant is expected to appear at all DCO scheduled hearings. The Defendants failure to appear at a DCO scheduled hearing may result in the issuing of a capias and/or forfeiting of the Defendant's bond. Defense Counsel is expected to have all paperwork completed prior to the plea date but may bring the paperwork with them to the plea docket. Failure to complete the paperwork prior to the plea docket shall result in the case being removed from the plea docket.

ZOOM

If you wish to view a live stream of the Court's Zoom hearings, you may subscribe to the County Court at Law No. 1's YouTube Channel or you may find the channel listed as: @fortbendcountycourtatlawno1.

Per guidance from the Office of Court Administration, this channel adheres to the Open Courts provision of the Texas Constitution.

We ask that the public be patient and understanding for any inconvenience these changes may cause.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Sarah Toler, Court Coordinator, at (832) 471-2822 or via email at sarah.toler@fortbendcountytx.gov, and Anita Ayala, Probate Auditor, at (281) 633-7413 or via email at anita.ayala@fortbendcountytx.gov.

NOTICE OF ACCOMMODATIONS FOR AT-RISK INDIVIDUALS

DUE TO COVID-19 MANY OF YOU ARE PART OF THE VULNERABLE POPULATION. INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE OVER 65 AND INDIVIDUALS WITH SERIOUS UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITIONS, SUCH AS HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, CHRONIC LUNG DISEASE, OBESITY, ASTHMA, AND THOSE WHOSE IMMUNE SYSTEMS ARE COMPROMISED SUCH AS BY CHEMOTHERAPY FOR CANCER OR OTHER CONDITIONS REQUIRING SUCH THERAPY ARE CONSIDERED TO BE VULNERABLE POPULATIONS. IF YOU ARE PART OF THIS VULNERABLE POPULATION PLEASE CONTACT THE COURT AT sarah.toler@fortbendcountytx.gov or (281) 633-7415 TO ADVISE THE COURT REGARDING YOUR NEED FOR SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS AND A SPECIALIZED DOCKET TO ENSURE YOUR CONTINUED SAFETY.