

STATE OF TEXAS § IN THE DISTRICT AND
AND § COUNTY COURTS OF LAW
COUNTY OF TRAVIS § HANDLING CRIMINAL CASES

STANDING ORDER RELATED TO DISCLOSURE OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BY
TRAVIS COUNTY PRE-TRIAL SERVICES

In the interest of community safety and in response to the Governor’s declaration of a state of disaster and various Executive Orders, the Judges of the Travis County District and Statutory County Courts, acting consistently with the Texas Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals’ First, Twelfth, and Seventeenth Emergency Orders regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster, hereby designate Travis County Community Justice Services (TCCJS) as participants in criminal proceedings.

TCCJS is ordered to facilitate the disclosure of certain, enumerated health information, including communicable disease reports or records protected by Chapter 81 of the Texas Health & Safety Code, between a defendant, the criminal court having jurisdiction over the defendant’s case or in which a defendant’s criminal case is pending, and any company who is under contract to supply court-ordered monitoring devices to the defendant.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the aforementioned agency shall, prior to disclosing the health information, seek the verbal consent of the defendant whose health information is to be disclosed. If the defendant refuses, or is unable, to provide consent prior to the time that the defendant is scheduled to (a) appear in court; (b) participate in an in-person intervention session or treatment program; (c) or have a statutorily prescribed monitoring device installed or serviced, then the agencies and departments may disclose the information to the extent necessary to protect the health and life of court and program staff, attorneys, monitoring device companies, and the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the agency specifically named herein take the actions described above, and any other reasonable action, to control the spread of communicable disease and avoid exposing court proceedings, treatment program and monitoring device company staff, jail facilities, and the public to COVID-19. A copy of this Standing Order shall be transmitted to the Sheriff of Travis County and the Director of Travis County TCCJS.

This Order is effective immediately and will remain in effect until thirty days after the Governor’s state of disaster declaration expires or is terminated, at which point the Judges will reconsider the needs of the community and either lift or continue the Order depending on the circumstances.

Signed on the 20th day of August, 2020.



Judge Brenda Kennedy
Presiding Judge
Travis County Criminal Courts

FILED FOR RECORD
2020 AUG 20 PM 2:30
DANA DEWITT
COUNTY CLERK
TRAVIS COUNTY TEXAS