

DEC 29 2020

RECERTIFICATION OF COVID-19 OPERATING PLAN FOR THE COURTS OF

FREESTONE COUNTY, TEXAS

TERESA BLACK
DISTRICT CLERK
FREESTONE COUNTY, TEXAS
BY: *[Signature]* DEPUTY

The "COVID-19 Operating Plan for the Courts of Freestone County, Texas" and "Jury Proceeding Addendum to COVID-19 Operating Plan for the Freestone County Judiciary" remain in effect until otherwise Ordered. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

- 1) The Trial Court will use all reasonable efforts to conduct all proceedings remotely, unless the litigants or other court participants are unable to successfully participate in a remote proceeding.
- 2) Objective criteria will be used to determine when an in-person proceeding is necessary and when all reasonable efforts do not permit the proceeding to be conducted remotely. Objective criteria to be utilized includes:
 - A. Inability of parties to participate due to a disability or lack of technology.
 - B. Hearings or bench trials expected to last more than two hours.
 - C. Insufficient internet access of participants or Court.
 - D. When necessary to comply with confrontation clause.
 - E. Lack of staff or equipment in jail facility to enable remote contact.
 - F. When language barriers require an interpreter.
 - G. When a Defendant does not have an attorney of record and may need to apply for Court Appointed counsel.

Date: 12-24-20

[Signature]
Deborah Oakes Evans
87th Judicial District Court
Freestone County Local Administrative District Judge

Misty Lewis
District Court Coordinator
903-389-4836



DEBORAH OAKES EVANS
JUDGE
Eighty-Seventh Judicial District
Anderson, Freestone, Leon and Limestone Counties
118 E. Commerce St., Room 401
Fairfield, Texas 75840
903-389-4836
903-389-0422 (Fax)

December 21, 2020

Ellen Earles
Official Reporter
903-654-7604

FILED
9:52 O'CLOCK *A* M

DEC 29 2020

TERESA BLACK
DISTRICT CLERK
FREESTONE COUNTY, TEXAS
BY *Teresa Black* DEPUTY

Dr. David Latham
Freestone County Local Health Authority
Via email: lathamdavid@rocketmail.com

Dear Dr. Latham:

As the Local Administrative Judge, this letter is to confirm that I have consulted with you to review the previously submitted COVID-19 Operating Plan for the Courts of Freestone County, Texas. Additionally, we have discussed current local pandemic conditions and appropriate precautions for any in-person proceedings. By signing below, you are confirming this consultation.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Deborah Oakes Evans in cursive.

Deborah Oakes Evans
87th District Judge, Freestone County

Handwritten signature of Dr. David Latham in cursive.

Dr. David Latham

DOE/ml