



**RON CUNNINGHAM
LLANO COUNTY JUDGE**

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March 30, 2021

Dear Attorneys, Clerks, Sheriffs and Interested Parties:

RE: Protocols for In-person Court for the Llano County Court beginning April 1, 2021

On March 5, 2021, the Texas Supreme Court issued Emergency Order number 36. This Order allows Courts in the State of Texas to return to In-Person proceedings effective April 1, 2021.

In light of this development, Llano County Criminal and Civil court proceedings will return to in-person hearings effective April 1, 2021.

COVID-19 Protocols for all criminal and civil proceedings:

- I encourage participants to wear masks.
- Emergency Order #36 Supreme Court Order requires that all participants either wear masks or maintain 6-foot social distancing at all times within our Court facilities.
- If a participant chooses not to wear a mask, any such participant shall maintain at least 6 feet of social distancing at all times.
- Due to social distancing requirements, we are planning for staggered docket calls for the 1:00 PM docket just as we have done in Zoom Court. This will obviously impact the time spent at the courthouse so we ask that all parties involved carefully review docket information and times.
- For those individuals who had requested a trial by jury, we will be holding jury trials in the Llano Courthouse Courtroom.
- If any Court participant suffers from COVID-19 or has been recently exposed to the virus or has tested positive for COVID-19 within the previous 10 days, has had symptoms of COVID-19 within the previous 10 days, or have had recent known exposure they are not permitted to enter the courthouse.
- Due to COVID-19 social distancing, seating is limited. Therefore, persons not required to be in court, may not have seating available.
- Any Criminal Defendant or plaintiff or defendant in civil cases who claims to have been exposed or has contracted the COVID-19 virus, will be expected to provide medical documentation to support their claimed inability to attend Court prior to their case being called or run the risk of having their bond found insufficient and a warrant being issued.

General Rules of Courtroom Conduct

All officers of the Court, and all other participants, except witnesses who have been placed under the Rule, shall promptly enter the courtroom before the scheduled time for each court session. When the Bailiff calls the Court to order, complete order should be observed.

In the courtrooms, the following conduct is not permitted:

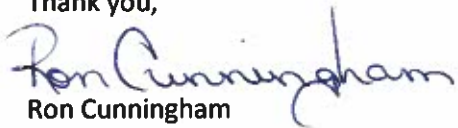
- Any tobacco products;
- Chewing gum;
- Reading of newspapers or magazines;
- Bottles, cups or beverage containers except court water pitchers and cups;
- Food;
- Propping of feet on tables or chairs;
- Talking that interferes with court proceedings;
- Possession of knives, stun guns, personal defense chemicals, nail files, scissors, or firearms;
- Use of any electronic device to record or photograph any court proceedings;
- Use of cell phones or any other electronic device, except by attorneys with permission of the court.

Courtroom Attire:

- Shirts must be tucked in
- No T-Shirts
- No shorts
- No pants with holes in them
- No Hats or Caps

The above protocols shall apply to all proceedings in the Llano County Court effective immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as they are modified or eliminated.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Cunningham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ron Cunningham
Llano County Judge