

**ATASCOSA COUNTY**  
**Robert L. Hurley**  
**County Judge**

**SECOND ORDER OF ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGE ROBERT L. HURLEY**

**WHEREAS**, on March 23, 2020, Atascosa County Judge Robert L. Hurley signed a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency for the County of Atascosa, Texas related to COVID-19 pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code; and

**WHEREAS**, the Declaration of Emergency was extended by unanimous vote of the Atascosa County Commissioners Court on March 23, 2020, which extended the State of Local Disaster to COVID-19 until May 23, 2020, with further extensions being possible; and

**WHEREAS**, beginning in December, 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated as COVID—19, was detected in mainland China, and has since spread throughout the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, extraordinary measures must be taken to contain COVID-19 and prevent its spread throughout Atascosa County; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Greg Abbott issued an Executive Order on Thursday, March 19, 2020 issuing orders for Texans to adhere to certain control measures and mitigation strategies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Commissioner of State Health Services declared a Public Health Disaster for the entire State of Texas on Thursday, March 19, 2020 and outlines certain control measures and mitigation strategies;

**BE IT THEREFORE ORDERED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF ATASCOSA COUNTY:**

1. Effective as of 11:59 p.m. on March 27, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020 the following amendments and additions are added to the previous mentioned order of March 23, 2020 will be in effect:
  - To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces, they shall at all times as reasonably as possible maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any other person when they are outside their residence.

- To the greatest extent possible, all businesses in Atascosa County shall comply with the Social Distancing Guidelines attached, including maintaining six-foot social distancing for both employees and the general public. Businesses are also strongly urged to maximize telecommuting and suspend or discourage nonessential employee travel. Businesses shall monitor the health and well-being of their employees daily and take appropriate measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace.
- In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, every person in Atascosa County shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.
- All public or private gatherings of more than 10 people occurring outside a single household or residence are prohibited, except as otherwise provided herein. Nothing in this Order prohibits the gathering of members of a household or residence.
- These prohibitions include all non-social gatherings with the exception that a gathering can be held with more than 10 people in a space where there is a minimum of 6 feet between each individual in that gathering for the duration of the gathering. Defining a 6-foot separation is as follows - a 6 ft radius around an individual is 113.1 square feet. For example, in order to conduct a business meeting or a church worship service of 20 people, the space in which the meeting is conducted must contain at least 2,262 square feet, which could equate to a room that is roughly 48' x 48'.
- Exceptions are: Pleasanton Municipal Airport when in transit or waiting for transit; places of worship; spaces where persons may be in transit or waiting for transit; grocery stores, outdoor markets, other allowed retail establishments where large numbers of people are present but it is unusual for them to be within arm's length of one another for extended periods. In all cases this order expects reasonable accommodation of the 6-foot rule in all cases.
- In all such settings (social, business or mass – gatherings) it is mandated that the public shall follow Social Distancing Guidelines herein. Harm reductions measures such as hand sanitizer, masks if deemed necessary and tissues should be provided when possible. However, any specific large gathering space that is part of any building included in this order is subject to the prohibitions if the space holds more than 10 people.
- Religious institutions are strongly urged to provide religious and worship services by video and or teleconference. Religious institutions may also be permitted to conduct worship

services outdoors if at least six feet distance is maintained between individuals and/or family units.

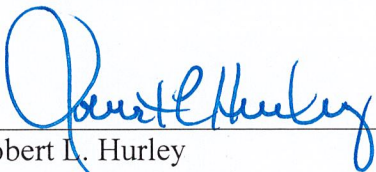
- Restaurants with or without drive-in or drive-through services and bars, microbreweries, micro-distilleries, or wineries shall only provide take out, delivery, or drive-through services.
- In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid visiting gyms and massage parlors.
- Nursing homes, retirement, and long-term care facilities are instructed by this Order to prohibit non-essential visitors from accessing their facilities unless to provide critical assistance or for an end-of-life event, as allowed by the facility.
- If someone in a household has tested positive for coronavirus, the household is ordered by law to isolate at home for 14 days until or unless otherwise directed by the Local Health Authority. Members of the household cannot go to work, school, or any other community functions during the isolation period.
- In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall temporarily close.
- People shall avoid public playground equipment.
- Governmental entities in Atascosa County are encouraged to maintain essential services and infrastructure necessary for the public good and safety while complying with the spirit of this Order as much as practicable in their continued daily operations.
- Atascosa County residents are strongly encouraged to remain in their residences as much as possible and limit trips outside their residences to work and trips for essential items only. Any residents that are AT RISK should to the greatest extent feasible, remain at home at all times.
- “High-risk populations” include people who are:
  - 60 years and older
  - People with certain health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease and weakened immune systems
  - People experiencing homelessness.

## 2. Recommendations:

- All business that can close should close to protect their employees and themselves.

- The county has posted notices on all offices that all persons must observe the 6-foot distancing rule or will be asked to leave. Also, our notice says that if someone comes into our facility and is coughing or sneezing, they must have a diversion mask (not an N95) on or they may not come in. And, the mask must be fastened correctly. We recommend all businesses, governments, residences and all buildings do the same.
  - If you have someone in your family that is coughing or sneezing, they should have a diversion mask to keep from infecting others in your household.
  - Clean, clean and clean. Everything.
  - This disease is a real risk. Please take it seriously.
3. Pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, I, Robert L. Hurley, as Atascosa County Judge, will follow and enforce the guidelines set out in the Executive Order issued by the Governor of Texas, Greg Abbott, on March 19, 2020 and issue further guidance and restrictions set out within the Declaration regarding public and private gatherings encouraging individuals living in Atascosa County to stay home consistent with the direction and guidance in the Declaration.
  4. Pursuant to Government Code §418.173, violation of this Order is an offense punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 and/or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days.

ORDERED this 26th day of March, 2020.



Robert L. Hurley  
Atascosa County Judge

Attached: Order Concerning Justice of the Peace Courts

**Attachment to Second Order of Robert L. Hurley, effective March 27, 2020**

**Atascosa County**

Concerning Justice of the Peace Courts,

This order has been amended to comply with the Fourth Emergency Order Regarding the Covid-19 State of Disaster issued by the Supreme Court of Texas Misc. Docket No. 20-9045.

The following is incorporated by reference in this Administrative Order.

--In any action for eviction to recover possession of residential property under Chapter 24 of the Texas Property Code and Rule 510 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure:

-No trial, hearing, or other proceeding may be conducted, and all deadlines are tolled, until after April 19, 2020;

-A writ of possession may issue, but the posting of the written warning required by § 24.0061(d)(1) of the Property Code and the execution of the writ of possession may not occur until after April 26, 2020, and the deadlines in Rules 510.8(d)(1)- (d)(2) are tolled while this Order remains in effect; and

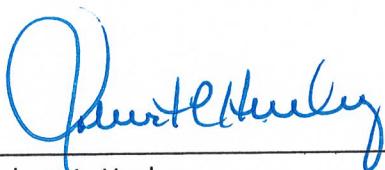
-New filings may be accepted, but the time period in Rule 510.4(a)(10) is suspended, and issuance and service of citation may not occur until after April 19, 2020.

--A case may nevertheless proceed if, but only if:

-The plaintiff files a "Sworn Complaint for Forcible Detainer for Threat to Person or For Cause";

-The court determines that the facts and grounds for eviction stated in the Complaint, under oath with personal knowledge, taken as true, show that the actions of the tenant, or the tenant's household members or guests, pose an imminent threat of (i) physical harm to the plaintiff, the plaintiff's employees, or other tenants, or (ii) criminal activity; and

-The court signs an order stating procedures for the case to proceed.



---

Robert L. Hurley  
Atascosa County Judge