



81ST AND 218TH DISTRICT COURTS

ATASCOSA, FRIO, KARNES LA SALLE & WILSON COUNTIES

VISIT <https://81-218.txcourts.gov/> FOR LATEST UPDATES

March 19, 2020

Re: First Directive for Criminal Defendants on Bond in District Court.

In the interest of the safety and welfare of the public, attorneys, defendants, and courthouse staff, the 81st and 218th County Civil District Courts have made the following decisions regarding the criminal defendants on bond in Atascosa, Frio, Karnes, La Salle and Wilson Counties.

Beginning Monday, March 23, 2020, personal appearance at criminal dockets will be limited to defendants who are in custody. Dockets for defendants who have been released on bond are suspended. Defendants released on bond, *who have completed and filed with the District Clerk the ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SUSPENSION OF CRIMINAL DOCKETS DUE TO COVID-19 AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP COURT INFORMED OF ADDRESS* form, found below, need not personally appear at previously scheduled dockets.

This directive will remain in effect until further orders are made, or until 30 days the termination of the state of disaster declared by the Governor in response to COVID-19, whichever comes first. Visit <https://81-218.txcourts.gov/> for the latest updates.

The District Judges retain the inherent discretion to add or remove a case from the criminal dockets. The District Judges expect that a system will shortly be in place to allow criminal matters to be heard by teleconference. This Directive does not suspend a defendant's duty to appear at a teleconference hearing, or trial.

To the extent allowed by the Texas Supreme Court's and Texas Court of Criminal Appeal's [First Emergency Order Regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster](#), or subsequent orders, all deadlines and procedures for criminal defendants released on bond, whether prescribed by statute, rule, or order, are stayed, until further order, for a period ending not later than 30 days after the Governor's state of

disaster has been lifted, except to the extent that, after notice and hearing, the Court lifts the stay in individual cases.

If a party, attorney, staff member, witness or spectator, exhibits any COVID-19 symptoms, including fever, coughing, or sneezing, or has a particularized reason to believe they have been exposed to COVID-19, the Court ORDERS them to NOT APPEAR, but notify the Court Coordinator at 830-769-3750, or coordinator@81-218.txcourts.gov, for rescheduling.

CAUSE NO. _____

THE STATE OF TEXAS

§
§
§
§
§
§

IN THE 81st 218th DISTRICT COURT,

v.

OF

ATASCOSA, FRIO, KARNES, LA SALLE
or WILSON COUNTY, TEXAS

Defendant

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SUSPENSION OF CRIMINAL DOCKETS DUE TO COVID-19 AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP COURT INFORMED OF ADDRESS

I, the Defendant in this case, am released on bond. I acknowledge that, due to the declared state of disaster in response to the COVID-19 virus, criminal dockets for those defendants released on bond have been suspended, ON THE CONDITION THAT THEY COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT TO THE DISTRICT CLERK. I acknowledge that I will be notified, of the next docket at which I must personally appear, not more than 30 days after the end of the declared state of disaster, unless I am notified sooner. I acknowledge that, if so notified, I must appear for court via teleconference. I acknowledge that I need not contact anyone about a setting unless I have not been notified by 30 days after the end of the declared state of disaster. I acknowledge that I am still bound by all conditions of my bond. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to make sure the District Clerk, my attorney, and the Court Coordinator, know of any change in my address. I declare that the information below is true, and that if it changes I will notify my attorney, the District Clerk in writing, **and** the Court Coordinator in writing at 1405 Campbell Avenue, Jourdanton, Texas 78026, or at coordinator@81-218.txcourts.gov.

Street Address

Mailing Address (if different)

Mobile Telephone

Other Telephone

Email Address

Signature

Date: _____