

Hon. Jerry Simoneaux  
Probate Court 1



Hon. Jason Cox  
Probate Court 3

Hon. Michael Newman  
Probate Court 2

Hon. James Horwitz  
Probate Court 4

March 5, 2020

### JOINT STATEMENT REGARDING HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS

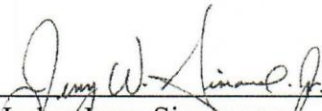
The health and safety of attorneys, their clients, the public, and those who work in the courthouse are paramount. The probate courts are doing their part to address recent concerns over the Coronavirus and give some guidelines for staying safe.


First, the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation. It is important to stay up to date on information. Three resources are the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)), The Texas Department of State and Health Services ([www.dshs.texas.gov](http://www.dshs.texas.gov)) and locally in Harris County at [www.publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus](http://www.publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus).


Second, according to the CDC, the immediate risk of COVID-19 to the American public is low<sup>1</sup>. However, you can prevent the spread of this and other types of respiratory illnesses by:

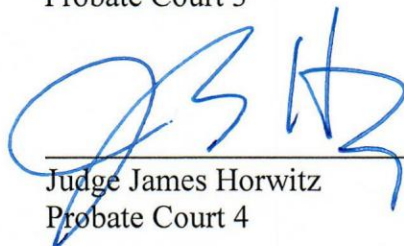
- Washing hands often and for at least 20 seconds
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) if soap and water are not available
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when you are sick (call for a continuance – see below)
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw it in the trash
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

Third, if you or your client(s) feel flu-like symptoms and you have a setting in the next 30 days, please contact the court coordinator to discuss options for a remote video appearance or resetting your matter. We will give all due consideration for health concerns.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge Jerry Simoneaux  
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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html>; last visited March 5, 2020