

City of Bonham, Fannin County, Texas
RECERTIFICATION OF IN-PERSON PROCEEDINGS UNDER
COVID-19 Operating Plan

In response to the document dated December 17, 2020, issued by the Office of Court Administration (OCA), entitled, “*COVID UPDATE #19 – Required Recertification for In-Person Proceedings on or after January 1, 2021,*” as well as the OCA document entitled, “*Guidance for All Court Proceedings During Covid-19 Pandemic, (Effective October 1, 2020; Updated 12/17/2020,*” on behalf of this Court, I offer the following:

A. Statement of Recertification

As presiding judge of this Court, I hereby Recertify the Covid-19 Operating Plan of this Court [as previously submitted on or about June 1, 2020, and approved by the Judge Ray Wheless, Regional Presiding Judge of the First Administrative Judicial Region.]

B. Documentation of Consultation with Local Health Authority

I consulted with James E. Froelich, III, D.O, the local health authority for Fannin County, Texas. (see attached letter to Dr. Froelich, as *Exhibit I*, incorporated herein by reference.) From our discussion, Dr. Froelich remains satisfied that the current Operating Plan for this Court is still conducive to in-person proceedings (if needed) and that the precautions outlined therein are satisfactory, in the light of current local pandemic conditions.

C. Objective Criteria to be used to Determine when an in-person hearing is Necessary

In person hearings will be used only if, all reasonable efforts do not permit the matter to be conducted remotely, for example:

- a. One or more parties or participants lack technology;
 - i. And appropriate technology cannot be reasonably supplied;
- b. One or more parties or participants have a disability affecting participation;
 - i. And appropriate accommodation cannot be reasonably supplied; and
- c. Only after additional documented consultation with Dr. Froelich or his designee.

I will continue to ensure that all proceedings in the court building covered by this Operating Plan will be consistent with the plan and this Recertification.

This Recertification shall be an Addendum to the Plan.

Signed on 22 December 2020.



John Skotnik, Presiding Judge

Exhibit 1

Municipal Court of Record City of Bonham, Fannin County, Texas

James E. Froelich III, D.O.
2105 N. Center
Bonham, Texas 75418

21 Dec 2020

Re: Texas Supreme Court and Texas Office of Court Administration (OCA)
Order for Recertification of Operating Plans for All In-Person Proceedings
on or after 1/1/2021

Dear Dr. Froelich:

This is to commemorate our discussion this day of the Covid-19 Operating Plan for In-Person Proceedings and the requirement for recertification of the plan for this Court.

I spoke to you in your capacity as the Local Health Officer here in Bonham and for Fannin County.

As I told you, the Texas Supreme Court via the Office of Court Administration is requiring all Courts to recertify the Court's In-Person Operating Plans that were submitted by 1 June 2020 to the Local Administrative Judge for submission to OCA.

My understanding from our discussion is that the current Operating Plan for this Court is still conducive to in-person proceedings and that the precautions outlined therein are satisfactory, in the light of current local pandemic conditions.

This Court has no plans for any jury proceedings, prior to 1 May 2021.

Thank you kindly for your assistance and for your good work to this area.

Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,



John Skotnik, Judge

Courtroom located at 301 E. 5th, Bonham, Texas 75418
John Skotnik, Presiding Judge § Amber Brown, Chief Clerk
(903) 583-2071 § FAX 583-2809