

FILED

APR -7 2020

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
MIDLAND/ODESSA & PECOS DIVISIONS

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
BY [Signature]  
DEPUTY CLERK

IN RE: §  
CORONA VIRUS/COVID-19 PANDEMIC §  
§

ORDER RELATING TO ENTRY INTO  
THE UNITED STATES COURTHOUSES IN MIDLAND, PECOS AND ALPINE, TEXAS

In order to protect public health, and in recognition of the national emergency that was declared by the President of the United States on March 13, 2020, the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, Midland/Odessa and Pecos Divisions, hereby renders the following:

It is **ORDERED** that the United States Courthouses, 200 E. Wall Street, Midland, Texas; 410 S. Cedar Street, Pecos, Texas; and 2450 State Highway 118, Alpine, Texas, will remain open for business, but access to the building will be restricted. Court Security will only permit access to the following persons:

- Persons who have been ordered to appear by any judge of the Western District of Texas, Midland/Odessa & Pecos Divisions;
- Persons who have been directed to appear by the United States Probation Office or by the United States Pretrial Services Office;
- Persons who have court business with the Office of the District Clerk, such as to file pleadings or make payments. Such persons will be allowed access only for this limited purpose and only on the first floor of the courthouse;
- Government employees who work in the courthouse and are authorized to appear by their employer;
- Contractors who are authorized to appear;
- United States Postal Service mail carriers, private mail carriers and private delivery services will be allowed access only for this limited purpose and only on the first floor of the courthouse;

- Law-enforcement personnel;
- Credentialed courthouse press;
- Victims who are attending scheduled proceedings; and
- Persons designated by the Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, the Chief Judge of the Western District of Texas, or any United States District or Magistrate Judge for the Western District of Texas.

It is further **ORDERED** that for all criminal proceedings other than sentencings, no immediate family members of a defendant will be allowed access to the courthouse or courtroom.

It is further **ORDERED** that persons otherwise authorized to enter must pass the screening protocol that can be found in the “Order Regarding Court Operations Under the Exigent Circumstances Created by the COVID-19 Pandemic” and the “Additional Order Regarding Grand Jury Proceedings Under the Exigent Circumstances Created by the COVID-19 Pandemic” rendered on March 13, 2020, March 16, 2020, and March 24, 2020, respectively by Orlando L. Garcia, Chief Judge of the Western District of Texas. Those orders may be found at <https://www.txwd.uscourts.gov>. No one will be permitted to enter in violation of that protocol. All people should follow CDC guidance.

It is finally **ORDERED** that this Order shall be effective immediately and until May 1, 2020, unless altered by supplemental order.

It is so **ORDERED**.

**SIGNED** this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020.

  
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**DAVID COUNTS**  
United States District Judge