TARRANT COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 3 AMENDED COURT RULES FOR REMOTE HEARINGS

Pursuant to <u>Supreme Court Misc. Docket 22-9022</u>, Tarrant County Court at Law No. 3 will continue to conduct virtual hearings for the convenience of the parties. Any party objecting to a "virtual hearing" must do so as soon as possible and obtain a hearing not later than three (3) business days before the hearing. Objections on the day of a hearing will not be entertained. The following restrictions and limitations will apply but are similar to what is required for an in person hearing.

PROCEDURES FOR LITIGANTS:

Tarrant County Court at Law No. 3 uses Zoom video conferencing. It is free to download at <u>zoom.us</u>. The Court Reporter or Coordinator will email you a link to the hearing. Please ensure your current email address is on file with the County Clerk. Your device must have internet access, a video camera and a microphone. If you intend to participate only by phone please alert the Coordinator at least two (2) business days before the hearing. **Witnesses may not participate without video without Court approval.**

Ensure the Court Reporter (<u>SJKrieger@tarrantcounty.com</u>) and Court Coordinator (<u>MWBlake@tarrantcounty.com</u>) have the email address you will have instantly available to you during the hearing not later than 4 p.m. the day before any hearing. Because of the importance of the record the Court Reporter, Shari, will be the "host" of all hearings.

If you intend to offer any exhibits during the hearing you must email them to all parties, the court reporter (email above) and the judge (MHrabal@tarrantcounty.com) not later than 4 p.m. the business day before the hearing. The subject of the email should be the full cause number and " – Plaintiff Exhibits" (or cause number " – Defendant Exhibits"). The documents must be in .pdf format. The Court cannot consider any exhibits not emailed in a timely manner. If you fail to follow this requirement the court reporter will be unable to maintain these documents in the record for any appellate review and the Court will be unable to consider them.

Any responses or replies e-filed with the Clerk less than three (3) business days before the hearing should also be emailed in .pdf format to the judge and opposing counsel to ensure they will be read. The documents will NOT be considered filed and must be e-filed with the Clerk as usual. Cases for the judge's reference need not be e-filed with the Clerk but should be emailed to the judge and opposing counsel no later than 4 p.m. the day before the hearing. Documents which have been e-filed and accepted need not be re-filed with the Clerk.

FOR THE PUBLIC:

The Open Courts provision of the Texas Constitution allows all Texans access to court proceedings. As such, anyone may appear in the Courtroom and view proceedings in person or on a computer. **Video or audio recording of proceedings is prohibited by law.**