

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

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IN THE COUNTY COURTS

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AT LAW

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CANERON COUNTY, TEXAS

**ORDER CREATING TEMPORARY CHANGES TO PERSONAL SERVICE AND ATTORNEY  
AD LITEM AND GUARDIAN AD LITEM VISITATIONS IN CERTAIN GUARDIANSHIP  
PROCEEDINGS IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY**

On this date, the Cameron County Courts at Law to be referred to as “Courts” found that certain medical and residential facilities, such as hospitals, nursing homes, long-term care facilities, and assisted living facilities, have restricted in-person visits in response to the COVID-19 emergency. The Courts find that guidance is necessary in the handling of personal service and visits on proposed wards and wards in such facilities by attorney ad litem and guardian ad litem in guardianship proceedings. The Courts find that it is in the best interest of public safety that the following procedures be utilized to accomplish personal service and attorney ad litem/guardian ad litem visitation on persons located in facilities that have prohibited in-person visits, until further notice of the Courts, in attempt to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19:

1. Pursuant to Texas Estates Code §1051.201 (a), the constable shall accomplish personal service requested in the guardianship proceeding on a proposed ward or ward who is located in the facility that is prohibiting in person visits either by:
  - a. leaving a true copy of the citation, with a copy of the petition attached, with anyone over 18 years of age at the facility who commits in advance to deliver the citation to the proposed ward or ward subject to the citation; or
  - b. by affixing the citation on the door to the entrance of the facility in which the proposed ward or ward is located.

2. An attorney ad litem and guardian ad litem who is appointed in a guardianship proceeding may accomplish their visit with the proposed ward or ward who is currently in a facility that is prohibiting in-person visits, such as a hospital, nursing home, long-term care facility, or assisted living facility, by using alternative methods of communication either through any technology applications that allows visual facetime communication or over the phone.

It is therefore ORDERED that, until further order of the Courts, any personal service requested in a guardianship proceeding on a proposed ward or ward who is currently in a facility that is prohibiting in person visits, such as a hospital, nursing home, long-term care facility, or assisted living facility, shall be accomplished by the constable either by:

- a. leaving a true copy of the citation, with a copy of the petition attached, with anyone over 18 years of age at the facility who commits in advance to deliver the citation to the proposed ward or ward subject to the citation; or
- b. by affixing the citation on the door to the entrance of the facility in which the proposed ward or ward is located. The constable shall contact the facility ahead of time in order to give the facility sufficient notice of the constable's attempt to serve the proposed ward or ward in that manner.

The constable shall contact the facility ahead of time in order to give sufficient notice of the constable's attempt to serve the proposed ward or ward in either manner. The constable shall note in the return of service the manner in which citation was delivered to the person directed to be served.

It is further ORDERED that the attorney ad litem or guardian ad litem who is appointed in a guardianship proceeding may accomplish the required in person visitation of the proposed ward or ward who is currently in a facility that is prohibiting in-person visits by using alternative methods of communication either through any technology applications that allows visual facetime communication or over the phone.

It is further ORDERED that this order does not affect the current process of citation by posting in guardianship proceedings.



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JUDGE SHEILA GARCIA BENCE

Cameron County Court at Law No.4



JUDGE ARTURO A. MCDONALD, JR.

Cameron County Court at Law No.1



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JUDGE LAURA L. BETANCOURT

Cameron County Court at Law No.2



JUDGE DAVID GONZALES III

Cameron County Court at Law No.3

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JUDGE ESTELA CHAVEZ-VASQUEZ

Cameron County Court at Law No.5

It is further ORDERED that this order does not affect the current process of citation by posting in guardianship proceedings.

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JUDGE SHEILA GARCIA BENCE  
Cameron County Court at Law No.4

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Cameron County Court at Law No.3



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JUDGE ESTELA CHAVEZ-VASQUEZ  
Cameron County Court at Law No.5