

## **In-Person Proceeding Schedule Panola County Courts**

Panola County Courts shall use all reasonable efforts to conduct remote proceedings. If in-person proceedings are conducted, this schedule shall be followed.

The Panola County Courts must schedule in-person court proceedings to ensure that the number of persons in the Judicial Center Annex are able to adequately social distance while in the courtroom and public spaces of the building.<sup>1</sup>

Courts must use all reasonable efforts to ensure proper social distancing in public common areas, galleries of courtrooms, wells of the courtroom, hallways, elevators, restrooms, or other locations where the public might gather.

As such, the Panola County Courts shall adopt the following:

- Courts must use all reasonable efforts to schedule matters so that common areas such as waiting areas, halls and elevators do not become crowded in such a way that it is impossible to maintain appropriate social distancing.
- The 123rd Judicial District Court and the Panola County Court at Law shall not set any in-person criminal dockets or arraignments consisting of more than ten participants (excluding court staff and officers) on the same date and time.
- The 123rd Judicial District Court and the Panola County Court at Law shall not set any in-person civil dockets, hearings, or matters consisting of more than ten participants (excluding court staff and officers) on the same date and time.
  - The County Court at Law shall use its best reasonable efforts to set in-person matters consisting of over ten participants (excluding

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<sup>1</sup> The Panola County Justices of the Peace are not located within the Judicial Center Annex. As such, each Justice shall use his or her best reasonable efforts to comply with this in-person proceedings scheduling order.

court staff and officers) on Tuesday mornings and Thursday mornings.

- Neither the 123rd Judicial District Court nor the Panola County Court at Law shall hold an in-person proceeding consisting of more than ten participants (including attorneys, witnesses, or parties) on the same date and time as any in-person Child Protective Services', Office of the Attorney General, or 123rd Judicial District Court grand jury proceedings.
  - Any scheduled in-person proceedings shall be noticed to the 123rd Judicial Court Manager, [erin.johnson@co.panola.tx.us](mailto:erin.johnson@co.panola.tx.us). Such notice shall include the approximate number of court participants, date, and the time of the in-person proceeding.
- Court staff and courthouse security must use all reasonable efforts to ensure adequate social distancing and managed exits of individuals during breaks, especially if dismissing large groups of people for a break.

Entered this 23rd day of March, 2021.



LeAnn Kay Rafferty  
Local Administrative District Court Judge  
123<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District Court