

AMENDED PROCLAMATION DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has been recognized globally as a contagious respiratory virus; and

WHEREAS, Governor Abbott issued a disaster proclamation on March 13, 2020, certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in the state of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Governor Abbott issued Executive Order No. GA-14 on March 31, 2020, relating to statewide continuity of essential services and activities during the COVID-19 disaster; and

WHEREAS, on March 29, 2020, to avoid scenarios that could lead to hundreds of thousands of deaths, the President announced that, based on advice from Dr. Fauci and Dr. Birx, the restrictive social-distancing Guidelines should extend through April 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to spread and to pose an increasing, imminent threat of disaster throughout Texas and Ellis County; and

WHEREAS, local businesses are urged to abide by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations in order to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Ellis County; and

WHEREAS, all government entities and businesses should be allowed to continue providing essential services during the COVID-19 disaster, and all critical infrastructure should be allowed to remain operational; and

WHEREAS, the public health and safety are of the utmost importance to the Ellis County Commissioner's Court; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has advised that person-to-person contact heightens the risk of COVID-19 transmission; and

WHEREAS, the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America, as promulgated by President Donald J. Trump and the CDC on March 16, 2020, call upon Americans to slow the spread of COVID-19 by avoiding social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people, using drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options at restaurants and bars, and avoiding visitation at nursing homes, among other steps; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of State Health Services has determined that, as of March 19, 2020, COVID-19 represents a public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, under Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code grants the Commissioner's Court the power to declare a local disaster in its jurisdiction,

NOW, THEREFORE, the Ellis County Commissioner's Court, by virtue of the power and authority vested in it by the laws of the State of Texas, do hereby order the following extension on a countywide basis until 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2020, subject to extension thereafter based on the status of COVID-19 in Texas and the recommendations of the CDC:

STAY HOME, STAY SAFE

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 418.108, THE ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S COURT HEREBY ORDERS:

1. Effective until 11:59 p.m. on April 30th, 2020:

- a. All individuals currently residing within Ellis County are ordered to stay home and stay safe unless performing an Essential Activity or to obtain or provide essential services. For the purposes of this Order; residences include hotels, motels, shared rentals, and similar facilities. To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces, they must at all times as reasonably as possible maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any other person when they are outside their residence. All persons may leave their residences only for Essential Activities, or to provide or perform Essential Services as defined in Section 2.
- b. All businesses operating within Ellis County, except Essential Services as defined in below in Section 2, should follow the guidelines as set out by Executive Order GA-14. For clarity, businesses may continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own residences (i.e. working from home). To the greatest extent possible, all Essential Services shall comply with the Social Distancing Guidelines, including maintaining six feet-social distancing for both employees and the general public.
- c. All public or private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a single household or living unit are prohibited, except as otherwise provided herein, except as otherwise provided for in Executive Order GA-14. Nothing in this Order prohibits the gathering of members of a household or living unit.

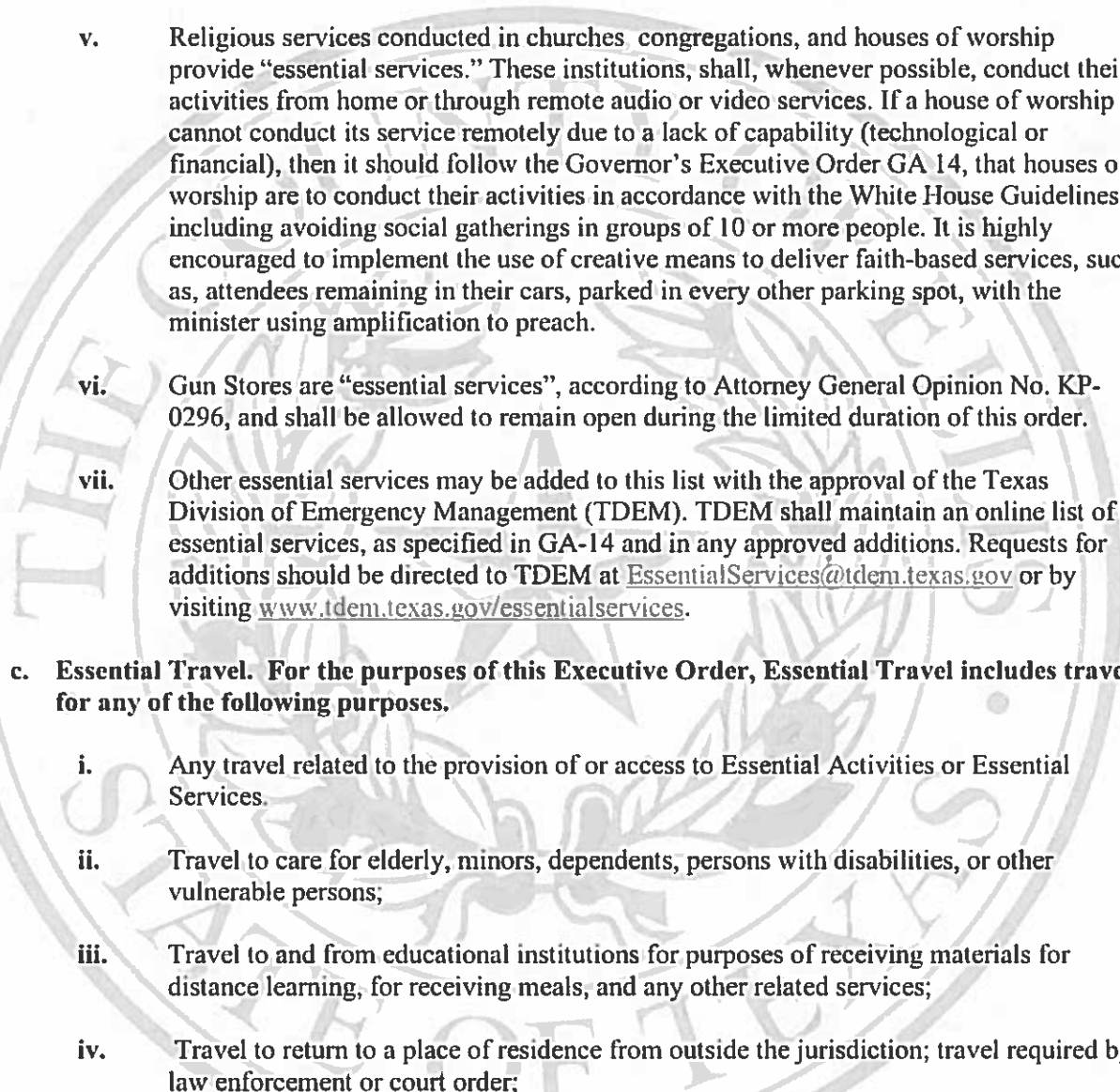
2. Definitions:

a. For purposes of this Order, individuals may leave their residence to perform any of the following "Essential Activities":

- i. This order does not prohibit people from accessing essential services or engaging in essential daily activities, such as going to the grocery store or gas station, providing or obtaining other essential services, visiting parks, hunting or fishing, or engaging in physical activity like jogging or bicycling, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and to minimize in person contact with people who are not in the same household.

b. For purposes of this Order, "Essential Services" means:

- i. Everything listed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in its Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, Version 2.0. These essential critical infrastructure industries include; communications, chemical, critical manufacturing, commercial facilities, dams, defense industrial base, emergency services, financial, government facilities, energy, food & agriculture, nuclear reactors, materials & waste, water, information technology, transportation services, & healthcare and public health.
- ii. In providing or obtaining essential services, people and businesses shall follow the Guidelines from the President and the CDC by practicing good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation, implementing social distancing, and working from home if possible.

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- iii. All services shall be provided through remote telework from home unless they are essential services that cannot be provided through remote telework.
 - iv. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC and Executive Order GA-14, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms, massage establishments, tattoo studios, piercing studios, or cosmetology salons; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options for food and drinks is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this order.
 - v. Religious services conducted in churches congregations, and houses of worship provide “essential services.” These institutions, shall, whenever possible, conduct their activities from home or through remote audio or video services. If a house of worship cannot conduct its service remotely due to a lack of capability (technological or financial), then it should follow the Governor’s Executive Order GA 14, that houses of worship are to conduct their activities in accordance with the White House Guidelines, including avoiding social gatherings in groups of 10 or more people. It is highly encouraged to implement the use of creative means to deliver faith-based services, such as, attendees remaining in their cars, parked in every other parking spot, with the minister using amplification to preach.
 - vi. Gun Stores are “essential services”, according to Attorney General Opinion No. KP-0296, and shall be allowed to remain open during the limited duration of this order.
 - vii. Other essential services may be added to this list with the approval of the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM). TDEM shall maintain an online list of essential services, as specified in GA-14 and in any approved additions. Requests for additions should be directed to TDEM at EssentialServices@tdem.texas.gov or by visiting www.tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices.
- c. Essential Travel. For the purposes of this Executive Order, Essential Travel includes travel for any of the following purposes.**
- i. Any travel related to the provision of or access to Essential Activities or Essential Services.
 - ii. Travel to care for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons;
 - iii. Travel to and from educational institutions for purposes of receiving materials for distance learning, for receiving meals, and any other related services;
 - iv. Travel to return to a place of residence from outside the jurisdiction; travel required by law enforcement or court order;
 - v. Travel by church staff or clergy for the purpose of production of remote delivery of religious services and other ministries requiring travel;
 - vi. Travel related to attending a funeral service;
 - vii. Travel required for non-residents to return to their place of residence outside the County. Individuals are strongly encouraged to verify that their transportation out of the County remains available and functional prior to commencing such travel; and
 - viii. This order does not prohibit travel to and from residence out of Ellis County.

3. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC and Executive Order GA-14, schools shall remain temporarily closed to in-person classroom attendance and shall not recommence before May 4, 2020.
4. If someone in a household has tested positive for coronavirus, the household is ordered to isolate at home. Members of the household are prohibited from going to work, school, or any other community function.
5. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC and Executive Order GA-14, people shall not visit nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance as determined through guidance from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.
6. That any certified peace officer or other person with lawful authority is hereby authorized to enforce the provisions of this Amended Executive Order in accordance with the authority granted under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975. Any person who violates this Executive Order may be subject to a fine not exceeding \$1,000, confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days, or both fine and confinement.
7. This order shall supersede any conflicting order issued by the Ellis County Judge or Ellis County Commissioner's Court in response to the COVID-19 disaster.
8. If any provision of this order is in conflict with Executive Order No. GA-14, the provisions of GA-14 shall govern and control.

DECLARED this 3rd day of April, 2020, at 5:10 p.m.


Todd Little, Ellis County Judge

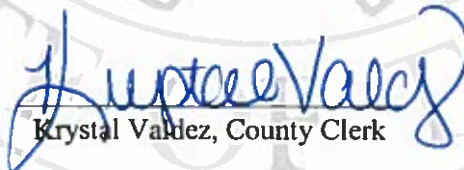

Commissioner Randy Stinson, Pct. 1


Commissioner Lane Grayson, Pct. 2


Commissioner Paul Perry, Pct. 3


Commissioner Kyle Buller, Pct. 4

ATTEST:


Krystal Valdez, County Clerk

