

ORDER

BY

THE COUNTY JUDGE OF TRAVIS COUNTY

**County Judge Order No. 2021-04 Relating to Notices to Vacate, Eviction Proceedings
in response to COVID-19**

Whereas, on March 6, 2020, a Declaration of Local Disaster was issued by the Travis County Judge to allow the County of Travis (“County” or “Travis County”), Texas to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of Travis County residents; and

Whereas, on March 13, 2020, a Declaration of State of Disaster was issued by Governor Abbott to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of Texans; and

Whereas, the COVID-19 virus is contagious and spreads through person-to-person contact, especially in group settings; and

Whereas, on March 27, 2020, the President signed the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act* (CARES Act) (Public Law 116-136) that provides forbearance opportunities for property owners with a federally backed mortgage loan or federally backed multi-family mortgage loan; and

Whereas, on September 4, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services issued a Temporary Halt in Evictions to Prevent the Further Spread of COVID-19 (“CDC Order”), effective through December 31, 2020 and thereafter extended the deadline through January 31, 2021, and requiring the filing of a declaration related to inability to pay rent; and

Whereas, on December 17, 2020 and on January 28, 2021, the County Judge issued Order Nos. 2020-22 and 2021-01 relating to Notices to Vacate, Eviction Proceedings, that prohibited certain actions by landlords in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to decrease opportunities for person-to-person contact, with Order 2021-01 expiring on April 1, 2021; and

Whereas, on January 20, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services announced that it would extend the order for a Temporary Halt in Evictions to Prevent the Further Spread of COVID-19 (“CDC Order”), through at least March 31, 2021 and on March 28, 2021 again extended the Temporary Health in Evictions from April 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021, and requiring the filing of a declaration related to inability to pay rent; and

Whereas, on January 5, 2021, the US Department of Treasury launched a \$25 billion dollar Rental Assistance Program, established by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, which will provide payments to assist low-income households impacted by COVID-19 with rent and utility/home energy costs; and

Whereas, on March 30, 2021, the County Judge issued Order No. 2021-03 relating to Notices to Vacate, Eviction Proceedings, that prohibited certain actions by landlords in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to decrease opportunities for person-to-person contact, expiring on May 1, 2021; and

Whereas, on April 30, 2021 Justices of the Peace in Travis County issued Eleventh Modification of Standing Order regarding Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Mitigation, Order No. 13 (“Justices of the Peace Standing Order,” attached as **Exhibit C**), consistent with current Texas Supreme Court orders regarding COVID-19 State of Disaster and continued the limitations on the filing of eviction cases, such as automatically abating residential eviction cases if the grounds for eviction are solely for non-payment of rent/housing payments based on income levels of the tenant, and requiring the filing of a Declaration by tenant in certain cases as provided in the CDC Order; and

Whereas, the transmission of COVID-19 remains a threat to the health and safety of the Travis County community; and

Whereas, to comply with the necessary health protocols implemented by the Austin/Travis County Health Authority, CDC and Texas Department of State Health Services, individuals may be unable to work, which could impact a tenant’s ability to pay rent, fees, or other charges associated with the tenant’s lease; and certain industries, such as childcare, live-music venues, arts venues, and restaurants/bars were among the industries first detrimentally impacted by the pandemic and are expected to be the last to recover; and

Whereas, COVID-19 continues to menace the health of County residents and the economy, and the Health Authority has advised on the need for continued vigilance by individuals and County businesses in complying with mandatory health measures; and

Whereas, the County Judge has determined that extraordinary emergency measures must be taken to try and mitigate the effects of this public health emergency, prevent the transmission of the disease and to facilitate a response to the public health threat; and

Whereas, there are local orders and ordinances specific to the City of Austin regarding notices to vacate and evictions for properties within the jurisdiction of the City of Austin that attempt to mitigate the effects of this public health emergency and facilitate a response to the public health threat, and which can be obtained from the City of Austin to determine applicability; and

Whereas, pursuant to Government Code section 418.108(g), a County Judge is authorized to control ingress and egress from a local disaster area, and control the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises in that disaster area; and

Whereas, providing a notice to vacate, as the first step to an eviction proceeding, during the disaster period will destabilize the economy and will contribute to additional person-to-person contact, which will effectively undermine the measures taken in past emergencies orders by the County Judge, Mayor of the City of Austin, and Health Authority to combat and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus; and

Whereas, significant funds, including \$10.7 million in federal relief funding designated for an emergency rental assistance program, have been allocated in Travis County to assist renters and landlords to mitigate financial burdens to both parties; and

Whereas, removing a tenant's property or excluding a tenant during the disaster period will contribute to additional person-to-person contact, an increase in household crowding, such as shared household settings or in congregate settings (homeless shelters), or unsheltered homelessness, and increase the risk of spread; and according to Eviction Lab, the eviction orders in place by the County Judge and Mayor have been effective and led to fewer evictions and fewer deaths; and

Whereas, because of these adverse effects resulting from evictions during the disaster period, the County Judge finds it in the best interests of the public's health to extend the emergency order related to Notices to Vacate and Eviction Proceedings for additional periods as specified in this Order.

NOW THEREFORE, I, COUNTY JUDGE OF TRAVIS COUNTY, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 418, HEREBY FIND AND ORDER THAT:

SECTION 1. That the findings and recitations set out in the preamble to this Order are found to be true and correct and made a part of this Order for all purposes; and further, that this Order shall apply to all individuals currently living within Travis County, including but not limited to all of the cities and municipalities within the boundaries of Travis County and specifically listed in **Exhibit A**.

SECTION 2. Effective May 1, 2021 and continuing through May 31, 2021 unless terminated or modified by a subsequent order, the County Judge deems it in the public interest to **PROHIBIT**, except as otherwise provided in this section, the issuance of Notices to Vacate to a: (i) residential tenant who fails to pay rent and the amount of the tenant's rent is \$2,475 or less per month, (ii) a residential tenant who fails to pay rent and provides the landlord the CDC Declaration attached as **Exhibit B** to this Order, or other form with the same substantive information contained in **Exhibit B**, or (iii) a commercial tenant as defined in Section 5. In this section, a tenant includes an individual who holds over beyond the end of the rental term or renewal period.

A landlord may issue a notice to vacate to a tenant described in this section if:

- (1) the actions of the tenant, or the tenant's household members, customers, employees, or guests, pose an imminent threat of (a) physical harm to the property owner, the property owner's employees, or other tenants, including other tenants within the household; (b) criminal activity; or (c) property damage that interferes with the use a dwelling that is occupied by other tenants; or
- (2) an insured casualty loss such as fire, smoke, hail, explosion, or a similar cause creates a condition that makes the residential premises totally unusable;

SECTION 3. (A) Except as provided in Subsection (B), effective June 1, 2021 and continuing through August 1, 2021 unless terminated or modified by a subsequent order, the County Judge deems it in the public interest to **PROHIBIT**, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the issuance of Notices to Vacate to a: (i) residential tenant who fails to pay rent and the amount of the tenant's rent is \$2,475 or less per month, or (ii) a commercial tenant as defined in Section 5. In this subsection, a tenant includes an individual who holds over beyond the end of the rental term or renewal period.

A landlord may issue a notice to vacate to a tenant described in this subsection if:

- (1) the actions of the tenant, or the tenant's household members, customers, employees, or guests, pose an imminent threat of (a) physical harm to the property owner, the property owner's employees, or other tenants, including other tenants within the household; (b) criminal activity; or (c) property damage that interferes with the use a dwelling that is occupied by other tenants;
- (2) an insured casualty loss such as fire, smoke, hail, explosion, or a similar cause creates a condition that makes the residential premises totally unusable;
- (3) the property at issue is the subject of a homestead exemption and the name on the homestead exemption matches the landlord's name; or
- (4) a residential tenant owes an amount of rent that exceeds the total of five (5) months rent that was due on or after April 1, 2020; and as declared on the Verification of Compliance attached as **Exhibit D**, that:
 - (a) the landlord has exhausted all Rental Assistance Remedies (as defined in Section 5); or
 - (b) either the landlord or tenant is not eligible for any Rental Assistance Remedies; and
 - (c) The landlord notified tenant that an application for Rental Assistance Remedies was submitted within seven (7) days from the date of application.

(B) Effective June 1, 2021 and continuing through August 1, 2021, unless terminated or modified by a subsequent order, the County Judge deems it in the public interest to **PROHIBIT**, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the issuance of Notices to Vacate to a residential tenant who fails to pay rent and provides the landlord the CDC Declaration attached as **Exhibit B** to this Order, or other form with the same substantive information contained in **Exhibit B**. In this subsection, a tenant includes an individual who holds over beyond the end of the rental term or renewal period.

A landlord may issue a notice to vacate to a tenant described in this subsection if:

- (1) the actions of the tenant, or the tenant's household members, customers, employees, or guests, pose an imminent threat of (a) physical harm to the property owner, the property owner's employees, or other tenants, including other tenants within the household; (b)

criminal activity; or (c) property damage that interferes with the use a dwelling that is occupied by other tenants; or

- (2) an insured casualty loss such as fire, smoke, hail, explosion, or a similar cause creates a condition that makes the residential premises totally unusable;

SECTION 4. Effective May 1, 2021 and continuing through August 1, 2021, unless terminated or modified by a subsequent Order, the County Judge deems it in the public interest to **PROHIBIT** the removal of property or exclusion of a tenant by a property owner in the manners described in the applicable sections of the Texas Property Code.

SECTION 5.

- a. **“Commercial Tenant”** means a tenant who operates a childcare business, live-music venue, arts venue, or restaurant/bar.
- b. **“Issuance”** means any method of providing notice authorized by Texas Property Code Section 24.005.
- c. **“Notices to Vacate”** means the notice to vacate required by Section 24.005 that must be provided prior to filing eviction suit.
- d. **“Rent”** means the amount due per rental pay period for a housing-related payment but does not include late fees, penalties or other charges.
- e. **“Rental Assistance Remedies”** means the rental assistance programs: Texas Rent Relief Program by the State, Travis County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), and City of Austin’s Relief of Emergency Needs for Tenants (RENT).
- f. **“Exhausted”** means that all applications for all available Rental Assistance Remedies have been denied or are still pending after 45 days from the date of application.

SECTION 6. That the Travis County Sheriff’s Office, the Travis County Fire Marshal’s Office, and other peace officers, are hereby authorized to enforce this Order. A violation of this order may be punishable through criminal or civil enforcement. A criminal violation of this order is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, but not by confinement. A criminal violation of this order may be enforced by issuing a citation to the person violating, that contains the name and address of the person charged, and the offense charged.

SECTION 7. The Travis County Clerk will post this Order on their website. In addition, the owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is likely to be impacted by this Order is strongly encouraged to post a copy of this Order onsite and to provide a copy to any member of the public asking for a copy.

SECTION 8. Savings Clause. If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then the remainder of the Order, including the

application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

SECTION 9. This Order incorporates by reference the following:

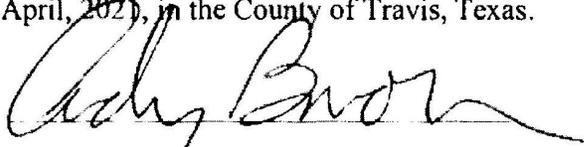
Exhibit A: List of Cities and Municipalities Within Travis County Jurisdiction Covered by this Order

Exhibit B: CDC Declaration

Exhibit C: Justices of the Peace Standing Order

Exhibit D: Verification of Compliance as attached to the Justices of the Peace Order

ORDERED this the 30th day of April, 2021, in the County of Travis, Texas.



County Judge
County of Travis, Texas

Filed with the Clerk of Travis County, this ^{30th} day of April, 2021.



Dana DeBeauvoir, County Clerk

Exhibit A

List of Cities and Municipalities Within Travis County Jurisdiction Covered by the Order

- City of Bee Cave
- City of Cedar Park
- City of Creedmoor
- City of Elgin
- City of Jonestown
- City of Lago Vista
- City of Lakeway
- City of Leander
- City of Manor
- City of Mustang Ridge
- City of Pflugerville
- City of Rollingwood
- City of Round Rock
- City of Sunset Valley
- City of West Lake Hills
- Village of Briarcliff
- Village of Point Venture
- Village of San Leanna
- Village of The Hills
- Village of Volente
- Village of Webberville

EXHIBIT B

DECLARATION UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY FOR THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION'S TEMPORARY HALT IN EVICTIONS TO PREVENT FURTHER SPREAD OF COVID-19

This declaration is for tenants, lessees, or residents of residential properties who are covered by the CDC's order temporarily halting residential evictions (not including foreclosures on home mortgages) to prevent the further spread of COVID-19. Under the CDC's order:

- You must provide a copy of this declaration to your landlord, owner of the residential property where you live, or other person who has a right to have you evicted or removed from where you live. You must also provide a copy to the court if a suit for eviction has been filed against you.
- Each adult listed on the lease, rental agreement, or housing contract should complete this declaration.

Unless the CDC order is extended, changed, or ended, the order prevents you from being evicted or removed from where you are living through June 30, 2021. You are still required to pay rent and follow all the other terms of your lease and rules of the place where you live. You may also still be evicted for reasons other than not paying rent or making a housing payment.

This declaration is sworn testimony, meaning that you can be prosecuted, go to jail, or pay a fine if you lie, mislead, or omit important information. I certify under penalty of perjury, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1746, that the following are true and correct:

- I have used best efforts to obtain all available government assistance for rent or housing;
- I either expect to earn no more than \$99,000 in annual income for Calendar Year 2021 (or no more than \$198,000 if filing a joint tax return), was not required to report any income in 2019 to the I.R.S., or received an Economic Impact Payment (stimulus check) pursuant to Section 2201 of the CARES Act;
- I am unable to pay my full rent or make a full housing payment due to substantial loss of household income, loss of compensable hours of work or wages, lay-offs, or extraordinary out-of-pocket medical expenses;
- I am using best efforts to make timely partial payments that are as close to the full payment as the individual's circumstances may permit, taking into account other nondiscretionary expenses;
- If evicted I would likely become homeless, need to move into a homeless shelter, or need to move into a new residence shared by other people who live in close quarters because I have no other available housing options.
- I understand that I must still pay rent or make a housing payment, and comply with other obligations that I may have under my tenancy, lease agreement, or similar contract. I further understand that fees, penalties, or interest for not paying rent or making a housing payment on time as required by my tenancy, lease agreement, or similar contract may still be charged or collected.
- I further understand that at the end of this temporary halt on evictions on June 30, 2021, my housing provider may require payment in full for all payments not made prior to and during the temporary halt and failure to pay may make me subject to eviction pursuant to State and local laws. I understand that any false or misleading statements or omissions may result in criminal and civil actions for fines, penalties, damages, or imprisonment.

Signature of Declarant

Date

Print Full Name of Declarant

Full Address of Property

"Available government assistance" means any governmental rental or housing payment benefits available to the individual or any household member. An "extraordinary" medical expense is any unreimbursed medical expense likely to exceed 7.5% of one's adjusted gross income for the year. "Available housing" means any available, unoccupied residential property, or other space for occupancy in any seasonal or temporary housing, that would not violate Federal, State, or local occupancy standards and that would not result in an overall increase of housing cost to you.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of this document was provided to my landlord and/or to the owner of the property where I live via the following method(s) (check all that apply):

First Class Mail to: _____ Date: _____
 Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested to: _____
 Email to: _____
 Fax to: _____
 Hand Delivery to: _____
 Other(explain): _____

You must also provide a copy to the court if a suit for eviction has been filed against you.

Judge Yvonne Williams
J P Precinct One
4717 Heflin Lane, Ste 107
Austin, TX 78721
(512) 854-7700



Judge Sylvia Holmes
J P Precinct Three
8656 B W Hwy 71, Ste 100
Austin, TX 78735
(512) 854-6763

Travis County Justices of the Peace

Judge Randall Slagle
J P Precinct Two
10409 Burnet Rd, Ste 180
Austin, TX 78758
(512) 854-4545

Judge Nicholas Chu
J P Precinct Five
1000 Guadalupe St, Rm 112
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 854-9049

Judge Raul A. González
J P Precinct Four
4011 McKinney Falls Pkwy, Ste 1200
Austin, TX 78744
(512) 854-9479

**ELEVENTH MODIFICATION OF STANDING ORDER REGARDING CORONAVIRUS
DISEASE (COVID-19) MITIGATION TO ALL TRAVIS COUNTY JUSTICES OF THE
PEACE (JUSTICE COURTS) (Order No. 13)**

1. The Justices of the Peace in Travis County issue this order pursuant by the authority granted by law, by all emergency orders regarding the COVID-19 state of disaster issued by the Supreme Court of Texas and Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas, and any applicable federal laws and orders. The Travis County Justices of the Peace issue the following order to avoid risk to court staff, parties, attorneys, jurors, and the public in regards to COVID-19.
2. This order supplements all previous COVID-19 related standing orders from the Travis County Justices of the Peace.
3. Due to the continued COVID-19 disaster declarations by the federal, state, and Travis County governments; the number of COVID-19 cases in the Austin-Travis County area; relevant gubernatorial executive orders; relevant Travis County Judge's Orders; the relevant Supreme Court of Texas emergency orders, the Justices of the Peace in Travis County find it necessary to order:
 - a. Effective May 1, 2021 and continuing through May 31, 2021, a trial under Texas Rules of Civil Procedure 510.7 in a residential eviction case is automatically abated until after May 31, 2021 if:
 - i. The grounds for eviction are solely for non-payment of rent, and
 - ii. The defendant's/tenant's portion of the monthly rent of the premises is \$2,475.00 a month or less.

- b. Effective June 1, 2021 and continuing through August 1, 2021, a trial under Texas Rules of Civil Procedure 510.7 in a residential eviction case is automatically abated until after August 1, 2021 if:
 - i. The grounds for eviction are solely for non-payment of rent and meet the requirements of (A) and (B):
 - A. The defendant's/tenant's portion of the monthly rent of the premises is less than \$2,475.00 a month, and
 - B. A tenant owes an amount of rent less than the total of five (5) months rent that was due on or after April 1, 2020.
 - a. If the defendant's/tenant's portion of the monthly rent of the premises is less than \$2,475.00 a month, and a tenant owes an amount of rent more than the total of five (5) months rent that was due on or after April 1, 2020, the case will be automatically abated until the landlord declares by affidavit that: either the landlord has exhausted all Rental Assistance Remedies; or either the landlord or tenant is not eligible for any Rental Assistance Remedies.
 - b. "Rental Assistance Remedies" means the rental assistance programs: Texas Rent Relief Program by the State, Travis County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), or City of Austin's Relief of Emergency Needs for Tenants (RENT).
 - c. "Exhausted" means that all applications for all available Rental Assistance Remedies have been denied or are still pending after 45 days from the date of application.
 - C. A case will not be automatically abated under 3(b)(i) if the property at issue is the subject of a homestead exemption and the name of the homestead exemption matches the plaintiff/landlord's name.
 - ii. This order does not release a plaintiff's/landlord's obligation to comply with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's *Temporary Halt in Residential Evictions to Prevent the Further Spread of COVID-19* (CDC Order) and the

pleading requirements under paragraph 4a of this order or any subsequent Supreme Court of Texas Emergency Order on this subject matter. Additionally, if all the statements are true for a defendant/tenant in a declaration under penalty of perjury for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Temporary Halt in Evictions to Prevent the Further Spread of COVID-19 ("CDC Declaration"), the defendant/tenant is encouraged to submit the CDC Declaration with the Justice Court and provide a copy of the submitted CDC Declaration to the plaintiff/landlord, even if the eviction case is automatically abated under paragraph 3.

- d. If a CDC Declaration is submitted consistent with the CDC Order, the Justice Court will abate the case and follow any other provisions required consistent with the CDC Order.
- e. Writs of possession for cases for evictions solely on the basis for non-payment of rent will continue to be abated consistent with the CDC Order if the defendant/tenant has filed a CDC Declaration with the Justice Court prior to the writ of possession's execution.
- f. A defendant/tenant, where the defendant's/tenant's portion of the monthly rent/housing payment of the premises is more than \$2,475 a month must file a CDC Declaration to abate an eviction case under the CDC Order.
- g. For residential eviction cases heard after October 1, 2020, if a Justice Court finds that the plaintiff/landlord has alleged grounds for the eviction case other than non-payment of rent/housing payments as a pretext due to the defendant/tenant submitting a CDC Declaration to the plaintiff/landlord prior to the eviction case being filed or was a pretext to circumvent paragraph 3 of this order or the CDC Order, the Justice Court shall abate or dismiss the case. The Justice Court may also sanction the plaintiff/landlord or its agents for the pretextual filing.
- h. A sample CDC Declaration is attached to this order titled, *Declaration under Penalty of Perjury for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Temporary Halt in Evictions to Prevent Further Spread of COVID-19*. The sample declaration or a similar declaration may be used.

- i. If CDC Order titled, *Temporary Halt in Residential Evictions to Prevent the Further Spread of COVID-19*, are revoked/not renewed prior to August 1, 2021, then the provisions specifically and as narrowly construed related to the CDC Order/Moratorium will no longer be applicable.

4. In any action for eviction to recover possession of residential property under Chapter 24 of the Texas Property Code and Rule 510 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure:
 - a. A sworn original, amended, or supplemental petition containing “a description of the facts and grounds for eviction” required by Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 510.3(a)(2) must state whether or not:
 - i. The premises are a “covered dwelling” subject to Section 4024 of the CARES Act;
 - ii. The plaintiff/landlord has provided the defendant with 30 days’ notice to vacate under Sect 4024(c) of the CARES Act;
 - iii. The defendant/tenant has provided the plaintiff/landlord with a declaration under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s agency order, titled *Temporary Halt in Residential Evictions to Prevent the Further Spread of COVID-19*, (“CDC Order”) that took effect on September 4, 2020 and is extended by Section 502 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021;
 - iv. The premises are a property securing an FHA-insured Single Family mortgage
 - v. The landlord has exhausted all available Rental Assistance Remedies as defined in paragraph 3(b)(i)(B) of this order
 - vi. That either the landlord or tenant is not eligible for any Rental Assistance Remedies as defined in paragraph 3(b)(i)(B) of this order
 - vii. If applicable, that the landlord notified the tenant(s) that an application for Rental Assistance Remedies (as defined in paragraph 3(b)(i)(B)) was submitted within seven (7) days from the date of application,
 - viii. The premises is subject to a homestead exemption and the name on the homestead exemption matches the plaintiff/landlord’s name

- ix. The premises are in the City of Austin and if in the City of Austin whether a 60-day notice of proposed eviction was given prior to the issuance of a notice to vacate consistent the Austin municipal ordinance.
- b. Plaintiffs/landlords in all residential eviction cases are required to file with the Justice Court, and serve on the defendants/tenants, a sworn affidavit/or unsworn declaration under penalty of perjury verifying the information required in paragraph 4a if that information is not apparent in the sworn original petition.
 - i. A Justice Court may dismiss without prejudice due to an insufficient pleading, any eviction case covered under paragraph 4 after the Justice Court has provided notice to both parties that the information required in paragraph 4 is potentially missing and giving the plaintiff/landlord at least 14 days to cure the pleading.
 - ii. Filing with the Justice Court a sworn affidavit/or unsworn declaration under penalty of perjury to verify the information required in paragraph 4a, and serving it on the defendant/tenant, will be sufficient to meet the requirements imposed by paragraph 4a and 4b.
 - iii. Attached to this order is a sample sworn affidavit/or unsworn declaration under penalty of perjury to verify the information required in paragraph 4a, titled *Verification of Compliance with Local, State, and Federal Eviction Requirements*. If a plaintiff/landlord wishes to use another form to comply with this order, the substantive information contained in the sample must be contained in the plaintiff's form.
- c. Plaintiffs/landlords are required to include the last known phone number and email address (if email address is known to the plaintiff) of the defendant(s)/tenant(s) in the sworn original, amended, or supplemental petition. If no known phone number of the defendant(s) is known to the plaintiff/landlord then plaintiff/landlord must affirmatively state in the sworn pleading that no phone number is known. The same remedies as paragraph 4b of this order may be used in this provision.

5. This order does not diminish the Justices of the Peace's ability to continue to issue judgments, orders, and rulings by submission if already authorized by law to do so for non-eviction cases.

6. In order to alleviate the threat of COVID-19 in county jails, the Justices of the Peace temporarily suspend active warrants for all misdemeanor Class C offenses from their courts until August 1, 2021. All the requirements and conditions of the warrants previously signed by the Justices of the Peace remain in effect but are suspended during this state of emergency. For the effective suspension, the Travis County Sheriff's Office, Travis County Constables, and all other law enforcement agencies are directed to relate this order to all law enforcement officers requesting confirmation of warrants, so that they are aware not to bring Class C defendants to the jail.

Therefore, all warrants for misdemeanor Class C offenses from the Justices of the Peace are temporarily suspended until August 1, 2021. For the duration of this suspension, the Travis County Sheriff's Office is ordered to not accept a defendant who solely has a Class C misdemeanor warrant from the Travis County Justices of the Peace.

7. A Justice Court may require new filings to be limited to E-File (EFileTexas.gov) or to the Justice Court's designated filing email as noticed in each Justice Court's website.

8. Each Justice Court is authorized to limit building access to comply with any recommendations/orders from county public health officials regarding limiting the number of people in a public space or room, including but not limited to screening whether a person's business with the Justice Court falls into court business and limiting the hours a Justice Court is open to the public. If a justice court limits the hours it is open to the public, notice of such limitations shall be posted on the Justice Court's official website and at its main entrance.

9. This order is in effect April 30, 2021 except as otherwise stated herein, and shall remain in effect until modified/rescinded by the Travis County Justices of the Peace. The time periods in this order may be extended in a subsequent order if required.

The undersigned Justice of the Peace has the necessary authority and authorization to sign this order on behalf of the five Justices of the Peace in Travis County. All Justices of the Peace in Travis County approve this order: Judges Yvonne Williams, Randall Slagle, Sylvia Holmes, Raúl González, and Nicholas Chu.

Signed on April 30, 2021



Judge Nicholas Chu

On behalf of the Justices of the Peace in Travis County, TX



Declaration under Penalty of Perjury for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Temporary Halt in Evictions to Prevent Further Spread of COVID-19 (2 pages) and Verification of Compliance with Local, State, and Federal Eviction Requirements (4 pages) sample documents are attached to this order

DECLARATION UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY FOR THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION'S TEMPORARY HALT IN EVICTIONS TO PREVENT FURTHER SPREAD OF COVID-19

This declaration is for tenants, lessees, or residents of residential properties who are covered by the CDC's order temporarily halting residential evictions (not including foreclosures on home mortgages) to prevent the further spread of COVID-19. Under the CDC's order:

- You must provide a copy of this declaration to your landlord, owner of the residential property where you live, or other person who has a right to have you evicted or removed from where you live. **You must also provide a copy to the court if a suit for eviction has been filed against you.**
- Each adult listed on the lease, rental agreement, or housing contract should complete this declaration.

Unless the CDC order is extended, changed, or ended, the order prevents you from being evicted or removed from where you are living through June 30, 2021. You are still required to pay rent and follow all the other terms of your lease and rules of the place where you live. You may also still be evicted for reasons other than not paying rent or making a housing payment.

This declaration is sworn testimony, meaning that you can be prosecuted, go to jail, or pay a fine if you lie, mislead, or omit important information. I certify under penalty of perjury, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1746, that the following are true and correct:

- I have used best efforts to obtain all available government assistance for rent or housing;
- I either expect to earn no more than \$99,000 in annual income for Calendar Year 2020 (or no more than \$198,000 if filing a joint tax return), was not required to report any income in 2019 to the I.R.S., or received an Economic Impact Payment (stimulus check) pursuant to Section 2201 of the CARES Act;
- I am unable to pay my full rent or make a full housing payment due to substantial loss of household income, loss of compensable hours of work or wages, lay-offs, or extraordinary out-of-pocket medical expenses;
- I am using best efforts to make timely partial payments that are as close to the full payment as the individual's circumstances may permit, taking into account other nondiscretionary expenses;
- If evicted I would likely become homeless, need to move into a homeless shelter, or need to move into a new residence shared by other people who live in close quarters because I have no other available housing options.
- I understand that I must still pay rent or make a housing payment, and comply with other obligations that I may have under my tenancy, lease agreement, or similar contract. I further understand that fees, penalties, or interest for not paying rent or making a housing payment on time as required by my tenancy, lease agreement, or similar contract may still be charged or collected.
- I further understand that at the end of this temporary halt on evictions on June 30, 2021, my housing provider may require payment in full for all payments not made prior to and during the temporary halt and failure to pay may make me subject to eviction pursuant to State and local laws. I understand that any false or misleading statements or omissions may result in criminal and civil actions for fines, penalties, damages, or imprisonment

Signature of Declarant

Date

Print Full Name of Declarant

Full Address of Property

"Available government assistance" means any governmental rental or housing payment benefits available to the individual or any household member. An "extraordinary" medical expense is any unreimbursed medical expense likely to exceed 7.5% of one's adjusted gross income for the year.

"Available housing" means any available, unoccupied residential property, or other space for occupancy in any seasonal or temporary housing, that would not violate Federal, State, or local occupancy standards and that would not result in an overall increase of housing cost to you.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of this document was provided to my landlord and/or to the owner of the property where I live via the following method(s) (check all that apply):

___ First Class Mail to: _____ Date: _____
___ Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested to: _____
 CMRRR Number: _____ Date: _____
___ Email to: _____ Date: _____
___ Fax to: (_____) _____ - _____ Date: _____
___ Hand Delivery to: (name) _____ Date: _____
___ Other (explain): _____ Date: _____

You must also provide a copy to the court if a suit for eviction has been filed against you.

DECLARACIÓN BAJO PENA DE PERJURIO PARA LOS CENTROS PARA EL CONTROL Y LA PREVENCIÓN DE LOS DESALOJOS PARA EVITAR UNA MAYOR PROPAGACIÓN DEL COVID-19

Esta declaración es para inquilinos, arrendadores o residentes de propiedades residenciales que están cubiertos por la orden del CDC que detienen temporalmente los desalojos residenciales (sin incluir las ejecuciones hipotecarias de las hipotecas de viviendas) para evitar la propagación adicional de COVID-19. Bajo la orden del CDC:

- usted debe proporcionar una copia de esta declaración a su arrendador, propietario de la propiedad residencial donde usted vive, u otra persona que tenga derecho a que lo desalojen o lo retiren de donde usted vive. **Si se ha presentado una demanda de desalojo en su contra, usted deberá presentar una copia a la corte.**
- Cada adulto que firmo en el contrato de arrendamiento, alquiler o vivienda debe completar esta declaración.

A menos que la orden de los CDC se extienda, cambie o termine, la orden le impide ser desalojado o eliminado de donde vive hasta el 30 de junio de 2021. Usted todavía está obligado a pagar el alquiler y seguir todos los otros términos de su contrato de arrendamiento y las reglas del lugar donde vive. También puede ser desalojado por razones que no sean no pagar el alquiler o hacer un pago de vivienda.

Esta declaración es un testimonio jurado, lo que significa que usted puede ser procesado, ir a la cárcel o pagar una multa si miente, engaña u omite información importante. Certifica bajo pena de perjurio, de conformidad con 28 U.S.C. 1746, que lo siguiente es verdadero y correcto:

- He hecho los mejores esfuerzos para obtener toda la asistencia del gobierno disponible para alquiler o vivienda;
- Espero no ganar más de \$99,000 en ingresos anuales para el Año Calendario 2020 (o no más de \$198,000 si presento una declaración de impuestos conjunta), no estaba obligado a reportar ningún ingreso en 2019 a la I.R.S., o recibí un Pago de Impacto Económico (cheque de estímulo) de conformidad con la Sección 2201 de la Ley CARES;
- No puedo pagar mi alquiler completo o hacer un pago completo de la vivienda debido a la pérdida sustancial de ingresos del hogar, pérdida de horas de trabajo o salarios compensables, despidos o gastos médicos extraordinarios de su bolsillo;
- Estoy haciendo los mejores esfuerzos para hacer pagos parciales oportunos que estén tan cerca del pago completo como las circunstancias de la persona puedan permitir, teniendo en cuenta otros gastos no discrecionales;
- Si me desalojan, probablemente me convertiría en un lugar sin hogar, tendría que mudarse a un refugio para personas sin hogar, o la necesidad de mudarse a una nueva residencia compartida por otras personas que viven en lugares cercanos porque no tengo otras opciones de alojamiento disponibles.
- Entiendo que todavía debo pagar el alquiler o hacer un pago de vivienda, y cumplir con otras obligaciones que pueda tener bajo mi contrato de arrendamiento, contrato de arrendamiento o similar. Además, entiendo que los honorarios, multas o intereses por no pagar el alquiler o hacer un pago de vivienda a tiempo según lo requerido por mi arrendamiento, contrato de arrendamiento, o contrato similar todavía pueden ser cobrados o cobrados.
- Además, entiendo que al final de esta parada temporal de los desalojos el 30 de junio de 2021, mi proveedor de vivienda puede requerir el pago completo de todos los pagos no realizados antes y durante el cese temporal y la falta de pago puede hacer que me someta a desalojo de conformidad con las leyes estatales y locales. Entiendo que cualquier declaración u omisión falsa o engañosa puede resultar en acciones penales y civiles por multas, sanciones, daños o penas.

Firma del Declarante

Fecha

Nombre completo del declarante

Dirección completa de la propiedad

"Asistencia gubernamental disponible" significa cualquier beneficio de alquiler o pago de vivienda gubernamental disponible para el individuo o cualquier miembro del hogar

Un gasto médico "extraordinario" es cualquier gasto médico no desembolsado que pueda superar el 7.5% de los ingresos brutos ajustados del año.

"Vivienda disponible" significa cualquier propiedad residencial disponible, desocupada u otro espacio de ocupación en cualquier vivienda estacional o temporal, que no violaría las normas federales, estatales o locales de ocupación y que no resultaría en un aumento general del costo de la vivienda para usted.

CERTIFICACION DE SERVICIO

Yo certifico que una copia de este documento ha sido provista a mi arrendatario y/o al dueño de la propiedad donde resido por medio de los siguientes métodos (marque todos los que le aplique):

- ___ Correo de primera clase a: _____ Fecha: _____
- ___ Correo certificado, Acuse de recibo certificado a: _____ Numero de CMRRR : _____ Fecha: _____
- ___ correo electrónico a: _____ Fecha: _____
- ___ Fax a: (____) _____ - _____ Fecha: _____
- ___ Entrega hecha a mano a: (nombre) _____ Fecha: _____
- ___ Otros (explique): _____ Fecha: _____

Si se ha presentado una demanda de desalojo en su contra, usted deberá presentar una copia a la corte.

CAUSE NO. _____

PLAINTIFF

§
§
§
§
§
§

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

v.

PRECINCT NO. _____

DEFENDANT

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL EVICTION REQUIREMENTS

My name is: _____

First

Middle

Last

I am (check one) **the Plaintiff** or **an authorized agent of the Plaintiff** in the eviction case described at the top of this page. I am capable of making this affidavit. The facts stated in the affidavit are within my personal knowledge and are true and correct.

1. Verification:

a. Plaintiff is seeking to recover possession of the following property:

Name of Apartment Complex (if any)

Street Address & Unit No. (if any)

City

County

State

ZIP

b. I verify that this property (select the one that applies): **is** **is not** a "covered dwelling" as defined by Section 4024(a)(1) of the CARES Act. The facts on which I base my conclusion are as follows:
(Please identify whether the property has a federally backed mortgage loan or federally backed multifamily mortgage loan, and if not, which database or information you have used to determine that fact.)

(If the property does not have a federally backed mortgage loan or federally backed multifamily mortgage loan, please state whether or not: (1) the property is a Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) property, (2) the property is federally subsidized under any HUD program, or (3) the property leases to persons with Section 8 vouchers.)

c. I verify that the premises (select the one that applies): **is** **is not** a property securing an FHA-insured Single Family mortgage.

d. I verify that plaintiff (select the one that applies):

has provided the defendant with 30 days' notice to vacate as required under Section 4024(c) of the CARES Act.

has not provided the 30 days' notice, because the property is not a "covered dwelling."

e. I certify that the plaintiff: **has** **has not** received a CDC Sworn Declaration from the tenant stating that they are a "covered person" under the CDC issued Federal Eviction Moratorium Order. Any landlord proceeding with a nonpayment eviction of a "covered person" despite receiving a Declaration can be fined up to \$100,000 under federal law, with enhanced penalties, including jail, if a death occurs.

f. I verify that I have have not reviewed the information about the Texas Eviction Diversion Program, found at www.txcourts.gov/eviction-diversion.

g. I verify that at the time of filing the petition for eviction (check all that apply)
"Rental Assistance Remedies" means the rental assistance programs: Texas Rent Relief Program by the State, Travis County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), or City of Austin's Relief of Emergency Needs for Tenants (RENT). "Exhausted" means that all applications for all available Rental Assistance Remedies have been denied or are still pending after 45 days from the date of application.

- The landlord has exhausted all available Rental Assistance Remedies
- Either the landlord or tenant is not eligible for any Rental Assistance Remedies
- The landlord notified the tenant(s) that an application for Rental Assistance Remedies was submitted within seven (7) days from the date of application.
- The premises are subject to a homestead exemption and the name on the homestead exemption matches the plaintiff/landlord's name
- I have provided the last known phone number and email address (if known to the plaintiff/landlord) of the defendant(s)/tenant(s) on the petition for eviction; or
- I affirm no phone number is known for defendant(s) /tenant(s.)

h. I verify that the premises (check all that apply)

- are in the City of Austin
- are not in the City of Austin
- if in the City of Austin, a 60-day notice of proposed eviction was given prior to the issuance of a notice to vacate consistent with the Austin municipal ordinance and a copy of this notice, along with the notice to vacate, are attached to the petition for eviction
- no notice of proposed eviction was required

2. Declaration or Notary: Complete only one of the two following sections:

a. **Declaration:** I declare under penalty of perjury that everything in this verification is true and correct. My name is : _____

First Middle Last

My birthdate is: ____/____/____
Month Day Year

My address is: _____
Street Address & Unit No. (if any) City County State ZIP

Signed on ____/____/____ in _____ County, Texas.
Month Day Year

Your Signature

OR

b. **Notary:** I declare under penalty of perjury that everything in this verification is true and correct

Your Printed Name Your Signature (sign only before a notary)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, 20____.

CLERK OF THE COURT OR NOTARY

Plaintiff must serve this affidavit to all other parties (including Defendant(s)) in accordance with TRCP 501.4.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of this document was provided to all other parties (including Defendant(s)) via the following method(s) (check all that apply):

- First Class Mail to: _____ Date: _____
- Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested to: _____
 CMRRR Number: _____ Date: _____
- Email to: _____ Date: _____
- Fax to: (_____) _____ - _____ Date: _____
- Hand Delivery to: (name) _____ Date: _____
- Other (explain): _____ Date: _____

CARES Act
Public Law 116-136

Sec. 4024 TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON EVICTION FILINGS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED DWELLING.—The term “covered dwelling” means a dwelling that—

(A) is occupied by a tenant—

(i) pursuant to a residential lease; or

(ii) without a lease or with a lease terminable under State law; and

(B) is on or in a covered property.

(2) COVERED PROPERTY.—The term “covered property” means any property that—

(A) participates in—

(i) a covered housing program (as defined in section 41411(a) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12491(a))); or

(ii) the rural housing voucher program under section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490r); or

(B) has a—

(i) Federally backed mortgage loan; or (ii) Federally backed multifamily mortgage loan.

(3) DWELLING.—The term “dwelling”—

(A) has the meaning given the term in section 802 of the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3602); and (B) includes houses and dwellings described in section 803(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3603(b)).

(4) FEDERALLY BACKED MORTGAGE LOAN.—The term “Federally backed mortgage loan” includes any loan (other than temporary financing such as a construction loan) that —

(A) is secured by a first or subordinate lien on residential real property (including individual units of condominiums and cooperatives) designed principally for the occupancy of from 1 to 4 families, including any such secured loan, the proceeds of which are used to prepay or pay off an existing loan secured by the same property; and

(B) is made in whole or in part, or insured, guaranteed, supplemented, or assisted in any way by any officer or agency of the Federal Government or under or in connection with a housing or urban development program administered by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development or a housing or related program administered by any other such officer or agency, or is purchased or securitized by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation or the Federal National Mortgage Association.

(5) FEDERALLY BACKED MULTIFAMILY MORTGAGE LOAN.—The term “Federally backed multifamily mortgage loan” includes any loan (other than temporary financing such as a construction loan) that—

(A) is secured by a first or subordinate lien on residential multifamily real property designed principally for the occupancy of 5 or more families, including any such secured loan, the proceeds of which are used to prepay or pay off an existing loan secured by the same property; and

(B) is made in whole or in part, or insured, guaranteed, supplemented, or assisted in any way, by any officer or agency of the Federal Government or under or in connection with a housing or urban development program administered by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development or a housing or related program administered by any other such officer or agency, or is purchased or securitized by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation or the Federal National Mortgage Association.

(b) MORATORIUM.—During the 120-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the lessor of a covered dwelling may not-

(1) make, or cause to be made, any filing with the court of jurisdiction to initiate a legal action to recover possession of the covered dwelling from the tenant for nonpayment of rent or other fees or charges; or

(2) charge fees, penalties, or other charges to the tenant related to such nonpayment of rent.

(c) NOTICE.—The lessor of a covered dwelling unit-

(1) may not require the tenant to vacate the covered dwelling unit before the date that is 30 days after the date on which the lessor provides the tenant with a notice to vacate; and

(2) may not issue a notice to vacate under paragraph (1) until after the expiration of the period described in subsection (b).

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of this document was provided to all other parties (including Defendant(s)) via the following method(s) (check all that apply):

- First Class Mail to: _____ Date: _____
- Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested to: _____
CMRRR Number: _____ Date: _____
- Email to: _____ Date: _____
- Fax to: (_____) _____ - _____ Date: _____
- Hand Delivery to: (name) _____ Date: _____
- Other (explain): _____ Date: _____



**FILED AND RECORDED
OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS**

Dana DeBeauvoir

Dana DeBeauvoir, County Clerk
Travis County, Texas

2021096626

Apr 30, 2021 12:40 PM

Fee: \$0.00 HERRERAR

STAYS IN FILE