



## Eleventh Administrative Judicial Region of Texas

**Susan Brown**

Presiding Judge

*Rebecca Brite, Executive Assistant*

January 8, 2021

Re: Re-Certification of Operating Plan for Matagorda County Courts

Dear Judge Fortenberry,

I have completed a review of your re-certification submission and I find that it meets the requirements<sup>1</sup> for proceeding with in-person proceedings after January 11, 2021. Your plan is re-certified.

I have received complaints that judges are not complying with the orders of the Supreme Court and the guidance of the Office of Court Administration (OCA) regarding remote hearings. The orders<sup>2</sup> of the Supreme Court and the guidance of OCA<sup>3</sup> place the burden of compliance on the trial judges. The regional presiding judges have been ordered to investigate and report compliance failures to the Chief Justice.

I am concerned that a report of non-compliance to the Chief Justice could also result in the complainant filing a complaint with the State Commission for Judicial Conduct. I urge all judges to strictly comply and to contact me if they need assistance in applying the orders of the Supreme Court and the guidance of OCA.

Thank you for all your hard work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Brown".

Susan Brown

SB/rb

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<sup>1</sup> See COVID UPDATE #19 dated December 17, 2020 – Required Recertification of In-Person Proceeding on or after January 1, 2021; COVID UPDATE #20 dated December 31, 2020 – Template for Re-Certification and Extension of Deadline.

<sup>2</sup> See Twenty-Ninth Emergency Order Regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster, Misc. Docket No. 20-9135, November 11, 2020.

<sup>3</sup> *Supra. Note 1.*