

Scheduling

Courts in McLennan County have adopted a Jury Trial Rotation Schedule. This schedule is designed to allow for social distancing and gives preference to scheduling trials in matters that are time sensitive.

Judges may trade trial weeks as needed for orderly management of their dockets.

Voir Dire for Jury Trials will begin on the Monday and/or Tuesday of the designated Jury Trial Week.

In order to accommodate the backlog in criminal cases, the civil and family courts will delay the start of any jury trials until at least July 1, 2021. A review of the current dockets will be done at that time and additional scheduling orders will be entered.

Beginning May 1, 2021 the jury trial rotation will be between the 19th District Court, 54th District Court, County Court at Law 1 and County Court at Law 2. The rotation will begin with the 19th District Court on May 3, 2021. The criminal courts will be allowed to create their own schedule moving forward to allow for the most efficient use of court space and their docket needs. Two courtrooms will be available for jury trials: The visiting courtroom in the McLennan County Court Annex and a courtroom located at the BASE. Any Justice of the Peace may request a jury trial and every effort will be made to accommodate their needs within the space restraints we will be operating under.

Hearings on Objections or Motions Related to Proceeding

Parties scheduled for a jury proceeding are encouraged to make any objections or motions related to proceedings at least 14 days prior to the beginning of Voir Dire.

Any objections or motions related to proceeding with a jury trial will be heard by the judge presiding over the case at least seven days prior to the jury proceeding or as soon as practicable if the objection or motion is made or filed within seven days of the jury proceeding.

Location for Trial Proceedings and Space Related Issues

In order to accommodate social distancing, jury selection will be held at either a remote location such as the BASE or in the McLennan County Annex Visiting Courtroom.

Trials will be conducted in designated Courtrooms/Spaces.

Jury Deliberation will take place in secured rooms that allow for social distancing.

Public Access

Subject to screening requirements and space limitations, the public will be allowed to observe jury trial proceedings. All observers will be required to wear facial coverings and observe social distancing. Seating will be limited.

March 19, 2021

Vicki Menard