

## Re: Re-Certification of In Person Operating Plans

Dear Sirs:

As required by the Supreme Court's Emergency Orders and Guidance from the Office of Court Administration, I include here the required re-certification of Matagorda County's Palacios Municipal Court In-Person Operating Plan.

I have consulted with the local public health authority (see attached) regarding the local pandemic conditions and have reviewed with the health authority the previously-submitted in-person operating plan to determine whether the plan provides sufficient health and safety protocols to permit in-person proceedings. The local health authority has determined that, "Local pandemic conditions re conducive to in-person proceedings under the precautions and protocols contained in the previously-submitted in-person operating plan."

In addition, I have conferred with the judges of courts with courtrooms in county/municipal buildings and have determined that the following criteria will be used to determine when an in-person proceeding is necessary and when all reasonable efforts do not permit the proceedings to be conducted remotely:

All judges in Matagorda County/ City of Palacios Municipal Court, before conducting an in-person hearing shall first determine if an in-person hearing is necessary by following the procedure as specified in the Template for Re-Certification.

When an individual is found to be unable to participate in a Zoom videoconference, the judge shall make all reasonable efforts to make necessary accommodations to allow the individual(s) to participate.

Having completed the required re-certification, I am submitting it to you in your role as Regional Presiding Judge. I understand and have communicated to the judges with courtrooms in county/municipal facilities that no hearings will be permitted on or after January 11, 2021 until I receive an acknowledgement from you that the re-certification meets the requirements of OCA's Guidance.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert L. Garrett

Presiding Judge

City of Palacios

Municipal Court