



Temporary Order

Governor Gregg Abbott issued a disaster declaration due to the coronavirus (COVID-19). In response to the Governor's declaration, the Presiding Officer of the Board of Pardons and Paroles (Board) will implement the following temporary measures to reduce the non-essential in-person contact.

1. Telecommute/Telework – the Board shall implement telecommute/telework for selected employees who are currently assigned to offices throughout the state.
2. Unit Interviews – the Board shall temporarily suspend in-person interviews conducted by Board Members, Parole Commissioners and Institutional Parole Officers on the prison unit, except of capital cases. Video or telephone interviews will be conducted if capabilities are available.
3. Office Interviews – the Board shall temporarily suspend in-person interviews conducted by a Board Member or Parole Commissioner in the Board office for offender families and attorneys. Family and attorney interviews will be conducted by teleconference or videoconference. Victims should be encouraged to allow the interview to be conducted by teleconference or videoconference.
4. Parole Panel Designations – the Presiding Officer shall authorize any combination of a Board Member or Parole Commissioner to vote any offender's case as a parole panel regardless of the Board Office assignment, and regardless of where the offender is housed or being supervised, with the exception of the extraordinary vote cases which are required to be reviewed and considered for parole by the full Board.
5. Hearings – the Board shall authorize the Board's designees to conduct preliminary, revocation, premature release and sex offender condition hearings by teleconference or videoconference.

The above procedures temporarily supersede any existing rule, policy, directive or procedure until further notice, and supersedes any previous temporary order.

SIGNED ON THE 4th DAY OF MAY, 2020.

DAVID GUTIÉRREZ, PRESIDING OFFICER (CHAIR)

**Signature on file.*