



## 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 and Parole Commissioners on the prison unit, except of capital cases. Video 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. Victims are encouraged to interview by teleconference.
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.

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

**SIGNED ON THE 23<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2020.**

**DAVID GUTIÉRREZ, PRESIDING OFFICER (CHAIR)**

*\*Signature on file.*