IN THE CHILD PROTECTION COURT OF SOUTH TEXAS FOR BANDERA, GILLESPIE, KENDALL, KERR, MEDINA, REAL, AND UVALDE COUNTIES

STANDING ORDER)(EVIDENTIARY ORDER
)(FOR REMOTE HEARINGS IN
)(EFFORT TO CONTAIN
)(THE SPREAD OF COVID-19
)(AND TO PROTECT ALL PARTIES

ORDERED that:

§1 This order is issued pursuant to the applicable emergency orders of the Supreme Court of Texas and Court of Criminal Appeals, and at the recommendations of the Texas Office of Court Administration, pertaining to preventing the spread of COVID-19. This order shall remain in place until further notice or order of the Court.

§2 Statutory or progress hearings shall be limited to the issues required by statute at that time. Unless a timely noticed motion is on file or exigent circumstances exist, all other issues will not be heard.

§3 Sworn statements of witnesses may be permitted upon proper notice and foundation. Objections may apply, but pursuant to the emergency orders of the Supreme Court of Texas and Court of Criminal Appeals, the Court will consider sworn statements in a light most favorable to the proponent. Attorneys and parties are admonished not to use sworn statements frivolously and to review sworn statements prior to hearings.

§4 Absent a showing of exigent circumstances, all proposed exhibits or sworn statements shall be exchanged not less than three days (as computed and as applicable under Rule 4, Rule 21, and Rule 21a of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure) prior to hearing or trial. Admitted exhibits shall be marked as identified on the record and emailed to the Court Reporter the same day.

§5 Sworn telephonic testimony will be permitted in all cases.

§6 All trials or hearings shall be available to the public via phone or other electronic access. Information on how to access these hearings will be available through the Texas Office of Court Administration website for the Child Protection Court of South Texas.

Signed this 25th Day of March, 2020.

Calent of Falkenbury

ROBERT J. FALKENBERG ASSOCIATE JUDGE