

# IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

---

Misc. Docket No. 17-9114

---

## EMERGENCY ORDER EXTENDING DEADLINE FOR RENEWING LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS HELD BY GUARDIANS, PROCESS SERVERS, AND COURT INTERPRETERS AFFECTED BY HURRICANE HARVEY

---

**ORDERED** that:

1. Hurricane Harvey struck the Texas Coast on August 25, 2017. Governor Abbott has declared a state of disaster in 58 counties so far.<sup>1</sup>
2. Chapters 155, 156, and 157 of the Texas Government Code and Rules 7.2, 8.2, and 9.2 of the Rules of the Judicial Branch Certification Commission (JBCC) require certified guardians, certified process servers, and licensed court interpreters to be certified or licensed by the JBCC. These certifications and licenses expire after specified periods elapse from the date of initial issuance or last renewal unless they are renewed prior to the expiration of that period. A guardian, process server, or court interpreter who holds an expired certificate or license may no longer lawfully engage in the profession or occupation for which the certification or license was issued. Additionally, effective September 1, 2017, an expired certification or license which is not renewed within one year after its expiration may not be renewed and the person who holds it must reinitiate the certification or licensing process to obtain a new certification or license.
3. The disaster has hindered some certified guardians, certified process servers, and licensed court interpreters from meeting their renewal deadlines.
4. A certified guardian, certified process server, or licensed court interpreter whose principal place of practice or residence is in one of the counties declared, or yet to be

---

<sup>1</sup> As of the date of this order, those counties are: Aransas, Atascosa, Austin, Bastrop, Bee, Bexar, Brazoria, Brazos, Burleson, Caldwell, Calhoun, Cameron, Chambers, Colorado, Comal, DeWitt, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Gonzales, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hardin, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kerr, Kleberg, Lavaca, Lee, Leon, Liberty, Live Oak, Madison, Matagorda, Montgomery, Newton, Nueces, Polk, Refugio, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Tyler, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Washington, Wharton, Willacy, Wilson, Angelina, Orange, Sabine, and Trinity.

declared, a disaster area by Governor Abbott due to Hurricane Harvey or its aftermath, and whose certification or license expires in August or September 2017, may lawfully engage in the profession or occupation for which he or she was certified or licensed and may renew the certification or license without penalty through December 31, 2017. A failure to renew a certification or license by that date will result in its automatic expiration on January 1, 2018.

5. A person whose principal place of practice or residence is in a county declared, or yet to be declared, a disaster area by Governor Abbot due to Hurricane Harvey or its aftermath, and who holds an expired certification or license, respectively, as a certified guardian, certified process server, or licensed court interpreter which reaches the one-year anniversary of expiration during the period from August 25, 2017 through September 30, 2017, may renew the certification or licensure no later than December 31, 2017, upon payment of the late renewal fee set by the JBCC. The failure to renew the certification or license on or before that date will render it void and non-renewable one year after the date of its expiration in accordance with Section 152.2015 of the Texas Government Code.
6. This order is issued pursuant to Section 22.0035(b) of the Texas Government Code and expires September 27, 2017, unless extended by the Court.
7. The Clerk of the Supreme Court is directed to post a copy of this Order on [www.txcourts.gov](http://www.txcourts.gov).

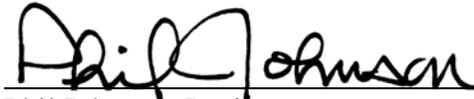
Dated: September 8, 2017



Nathan L. Hecht, Chief Justice



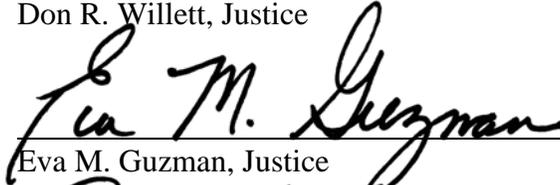
Paul W. Green, Justice



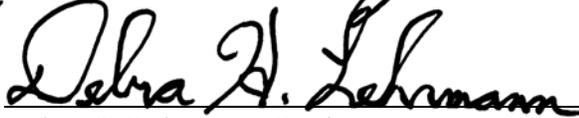
Phil Johnson, Justice



Don R. Willett, Justice



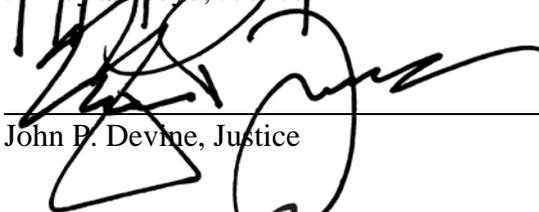
Eva M. Guzman, Justice



Debra H. Lehrmann, Justice



Jeffrey S. Boyd, Justice



John P. Devine, Justice



Jeffrey V. Brown, Justice