

President
Michael C. Savas, CTIP



Executive Vice President & CEO
Leslie Midgley, CAE

June 29, 2020

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Office of the Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

RE: Continuation of the Executive Action on April 27, 2020 Suspending Section 121.006(c)(1) of the Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code

Dear Governor Abbott:

The Texas Land Title Association (TLTA) appreciates your hard work during this difficult time. Today, we write to request that you extend an earlier decision that's protecting public health and remains key to the continued success of our real estate economy.

On April 27, 2020, the Office of the Governor granted the Office of Attorney General's request to temporarily suspend section 121.006(c)(1) of the Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code. Minimizing in-person contact with people who are not members of the same household remains necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19, and your decision to temporarily suspend some of the statutory requirements for notarizations in Texas speeds and aids our state's efforts to cope with the COVID-19 emergency. This policy was extended for an additional period expiring June 30.

We respectfully request that you modify this suspension by extending the termination date to mirror the expiration date of the April 9, 2020 order addressing remote notarizations for a self-proved will, a durable power of attorney, a medical power of attorney, a directive to physician, or an oath of an executor, administrator, or guardian such that it remains in effect "until terminated by the Office of the Governor or until the March 13, 2020 disaster declaration is lifted or expires."

Since you granted our original request, title professionals have worked within the guidelines made part of the suspension with success and confidence in its security, helping ensure the integrity of real estate transactions statewide. Allowing Texas consumers to continue choosing remote ink-signed notarizations (RIN) until we are clear of this unprecedented public health threat will help augment the physical safety of title professionals and Texas consumers.

TLTA is a statewide trade association that represents the Texas title insurance industry and the 15,000 professionals who work for the safe and efficient transfer of real estate. Our membership comprises over 85 percent of all title insurance agents and underwriters licensed to do business in Texas with active members in 253 of 254 Texas counties.

The accommodation we request will further enhance our ability to serve the public with great efficiency and safety.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael C. Savas', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Michael C. Savas, CTIP
President