

## ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGES REPORT

As response to my last column explaining the state's action to rescind the lifting of the mask law there have been a number of people who have posted that the mask portion of (Governor Abbott) the order GA29 was not law. This is incorrect and all the people who have written this are wrong. The order properly quotes its authority as Statute 418 of the Texas Government Code which governs Emergency Orders. The Governor's right to issue emergency orders in Texas overrides any other County Judge or Mayoral order. Please note:

"TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE; TITLE 4. EXECUTIVE BRANCH; SUBTITLE B. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC PROTECTION; CHAPTER 418. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT; SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS – Sec. 418.012. EXECUTIVE ORDERS. Under this chapter, the governor may issue executive orders, proclamations, and regulations and amend or rescind them. Executive orders, proclamations, and regulations have the force and effect of law.

Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 147, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987." And,

"NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, do hereby order the following on a statewide basis effective at 12:01 p.m. on July 3, 2020: Every person in Texas shall wear a face covering over the nose and mouth when inside a commercial entity or other building or space open to the public, or when in an outdoor public space, wherever it is not feasible to maintain six feet of social distancing from another person not in the same household; provided, however, that this facecovering requirement does not apply to the following:" (see GA29 for exceptions and penalties – which is still in effect).

I hate to spend my column on this, but it is important that all our citizens know that the Governor's order is law. It is not my responsibility to enforce the law (that falls under law enforcement) just to inform. Whether or not you obey it or not is up to you. I just do not want anyone misled by those who are spreading this misinformation. We can get through this together. If we try. With vaccines on the horizon the end is in sight.

I wish everyone a safe and eventful Thanksgiving. May God bless you and keep you.

Thanks for listening.