

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

**GENERAL ORDER REGARDING SPECIAL SESSIONS OF COURT OUTSIDE
THE DISTRICT DUE TO HURRICANE RITA**

Effective immediately, under the authority granted in the Federal Judiciary Emergency Special Sessions Act of 2005, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas will conduct special sessions from time to time in the Houston Division of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas. Due to emergency conditions caused by Hurricane Rita, there is no reasonable available location within the Beaumont Division of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas where such special sessions can be conducted for the next two to three months.

Pursuant to this order and the Federal Judiciary Emergency Special Sessions Act, any business that may be transacted at a regular session of the district court may be transacted at a special session conducted outside the district, except that a criminal trial may not be conducted at a special session outside the state in which the crime has been committed unless the defendant consents to such a criminal trial.

In any case in which a special session is conducted pursuant to this order and the Federal Judiciary Emergency Special Sessions Act, the district court may summon jurors in civil proceedings from any part of the district in which the court ordinarily conducts business or the district in which it is holding a special session. In criminal proceedings, the court may summon jurors from any part of the district in which the crime has been committed and, if the defendant so consents, from any district in which the court is conducting business under this order.

Signed this 6th day of October, 2005.

FOR THE COURT:


THAD HEARTFIELD
Chief Judge