



DISTRICT ATTORNEY OFFICES' RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Dates Submitted: March 13-May 14, 2020

Responses are subject to changes

14th Judicial District, Tennessee

Most court proceedings have been cancelled through the end of the month. We will hold necessary hearings for those in custody with respect to arraignments, bonds, preliminary hearings, guilty pleas, orders of protection and anything else to make sure defendants' and victims' rights are protected as well as addressing public safety demands. We have the capability to do this by video from our jail to our courts. As to previously scheduled court dates for "non-essential" matters and non-custodial defendants, a schedule was publicly released that resets all the cases for each date to another date in April or May.



Order Manchester TN.pdf

Province of Ontario, Canada

Court System

- Jury trials are cancelled:

<https://www.ontariocourts.ca/scj/covid-19/>

Sumner County, Kansas

Office

- No meetings with members of the general public in person--all communications with the general public will be done over the phone
- Communication with law enforcement, attorneys, and social workers will still be done in person

Court System

- All civil and criminal jury trial have been continued that were scheduled through May 1, 2020

Clay County, South Dakota

Court System

- Canvassing cases regarding 24/7 conditions and addressing bond modification on a case by case basis
- Limiting the number of cases coming in to do twice daily Portable Breath Tests (PBTs) (looking to utilize more SCRAM bracelets if possible)
- Potentially using more ITV appearances for court appearances to avoid crowded courtrooms
- More liberal continuances for routine court appearances; but also being cognizant to space them out so not bottle-necking super large court dates in May/June.
- State Supreme Court declared a State of Judicial Emergency, so judicial rules could be suspended
 - Specific rule modifications up to each individual circuit
- Communication with public defender's office about avoiding grand juries for the time being

- ✓ Drop-in's should be discontinued: call in advance to schedule an appointment with a member of the SA Office.
- ✓ Conduct as much business online, via email, and via phone as possible.
 - Diversion documentation may be emailed or faxed.
 - Utilize website contact form when unfamiliar with specific staff emails.
- ✓ Call your attorney, the Clerk of Courts, or our office to discuss court continuances or alternatives when appropriate.
 - If you are feeling ill, have travel delays, or other scheduling conflicts, then court dates should be rescheduled without personal appearance.
 - ITV (Facetime, Skype, etc.) appearance options may also be an option.

We will continue to update as more information becomes available.

Franklin County, Maine

Court System

- Emergency Order issued from the Maine Supreme Judicial Court regarding cancellation of in-person hearings until at least May 1, 2020.



Franklin County -- Farmington ME.pdf

Berkshire County, Massachusetts

Office

- Office is closed to non-staff members, including state police, local law enforcement, victims, and witnesses
- Staff to hold all meetings remotely except in very rare circumstances necessitating in person meetings to happen off site

- Enacted protocols to limit exposure of staff to potential virus by splitting them into teams so that in the event that one team must be quarantined, we have another team ready to go

Court System

- Removal of jury trials and evidentiary hearings from the docket
- Working with the trial court judges to ensure that individuals held pretrial on dangerousness are not released into the community and that those that require monitoring continue to be monitored
- Advocating to keep grand jury open in order to obtain indictments in serious cases where individuals must be held
- Monitoring the effect of further isolation on crime victims during times of social distancing and encouraging victims to be proactive in seeking help
- State Supreme Court has ordered no new juries be empaneled until 4/21 and has ordered the court house closed to persons who are ill or exposed to Covid-19
- Extending current grand jury beyond their originally scheduled dates with instructions to use them as necessary-for example to obtain murder indictments against people that are held.
- Trial courts issued orders re: limiting trials and non-evidentiary hearings and holding hearings telephonically.
- Sheriffs are not transporting incarcerated people to the courthouses. I feel confident that my office will continue our essential work for the duration.



FW_Berkshire_DA's_Statement_On_Covid-19.zip

State of Oklahoma

Court System

- State Supreme Court issued an Administrative Directive regarding court dockets and trials for the next few weeks. This is a joint effort between the state Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals, the highest courts in Oklahoma for civil and criminal appeals



SCAD-2020-24.pdf

8th Judicial District, New Mexico

Office

- Moved to a platoon or split squad work schedule to minimize the amount of personnel in the office at any given time
- Working to enable remote access for support staff to work from home

Court System

- State Supreme Court issued a directive to the courts (right image)
- Chief judge in the district has canceled/postponed all trials, including criminal trial, until at least mid-April
Canceled Grand Jury presentations until at least mid-April
- Worked with the district public defender to arrange for waiver of arraignments and agree to as many Conditions of Release for those defendants where the prosecutor's office has not filed a Petition for Pretrial Detention/No Bond Hold
- Working to file as many Stipulated Motions with the court to avoid any unnecessary hearings in court, effectively trying to limit court hearings to probation violation revocations, dispositive or suppression motions, and change of plea hearings.



Supreme Court of New Mexico

CHIEF JUSTICE
JUSTICES
BARBARA J. VIGIL
MICHAEL E. VIGIL
C. SHANNON BACON
DAVID K. THOMSON

P.O. BOX 948
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO
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CHIEF CLERK
JOEY D. MOYAL, ESQ.
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March 13, 2020

Dear Members of the New Mexico State Bar,

The Governor's declaration of a public health emergency to address the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has affected all New Mexicans, including our courts. As the third branch of government, we are obligated to keep our courts open so that we may fulfill our constitutional and statutory duties while, at the same time, minimizing the public health risks for those who visit or work in our courthouses.

To meet these responsibilities the Supreme Court has implemented a number of public health measures designed to ensure that our courthouses are safe for jurors, litigants, lawyers, judicial employees, judges and all members of the public. These measures *include*, but are not limited to, the following:

- Contacting landlords and county officials to ensure that enhanced cleaning procedures will be implemented in buildings that house courthouses that are not owned by the New Mexico Judiciary.
- Restricting the number of people, including potential jurors, in our courtrooms to no more than twenty-five people to maintain appropriate social-distancing as recommended by public health authorities.
- Suspending civil jury trials, which have not yet commenced, subject to the individual discretion of the presiding judge. And,
- Alerting the public that they should not come to court if they have traveled to a high-risk area or are displaying symptoms of COVID-19.

While we understand that some of these measures may be inconvenient or even burdensome for you and your clients, we hope that you will work with us to keep our courthouses open and as safe as possible.

State of Nebraska

Court System

- State Supreme Court issued an order to the courts:
<https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/sites/default/files/Administration/emergency/order3.12.20.pdf>
- New [General Order No. 2020-07](#) IN RE Video Teleconferencing for Criminal Proceedings

Denver County, Colorado

Office

- Requiring staff with the proper equipment to work from home
- Chiefs of each unit will work with staff to stagger appearances in court and in the office so that everything is covered but they won't have as many people in the office or the courtrooms
- All staff will be paid whether they are working from home, from the office or unable to work.

Court System

- Judges are currently working, by case class, to develop strategies for continuances and decrease appearances, while maintaining protection orders and other necessary matters

Island County, Washington

Office

- Delay filing non-violent criminal Informations (we charge all felonies by Information) until further notice. Evaluating violent felonies on a case by case basis
- Working with the local jail to identify prisoners that can be furloughed, or released pending trial

Court System

- State Supreme Court has issued a general order effectively granting the Superior Courts (courts of general jurisdiction) and District Courts (limited jurisdiction) the authority to suspend such rules, including speedy trial rules, as necessary to meet the goals of the public health recommendations and the Governor's emergency proclamation
- Over the course of the past weeks, Superior Courts around the state (essentially each of our 39 counties has its own Superior Court) have been issuing emergency orders delaying certain types of cases, suspending hearings, and limiting which jurors must appear (only young and healthy)
- The second largest jurisdiction's court issued an order effectively shutting down the Superior Court, except for a very few telephonic hearings, and video hearings
- Civil motions will be decided without argument
- Jury trials are continued until "at least" April 24 (criminal) and June 1 (civil)

On March 18, 2020, the Washington's State Supreme Court shut down their court system until April 24, 2020. All civil and criminal cases are paused until then. Learn more [here](#).

Suffolk County, Massachusetts

Office

- Effective Monday, March 16, onsite Suffolk District Attorney's Office staff will be reduced to 'skeleton' or essential levels
- All prosecutors will request a 60-day continuance in cases in which the individual charged with a crime is not in custody. This request will include the Boston Municipal Court, the Chelsea District Court, the Juvenile Courts in Suffolk County and Suffolk Superior Court
- Prosecutors will request a delay in the empanelment of the next scheduled sitting of the special grand jury for an additional 30 days. The regular grand jury will remain sitting and intact and will in no way compromise the presentation of the most serious and violent cases
- <https://www.masslive.com/coronavirus/2020/03/coronavirus-suffolk-district-attorney-rachael-rollins-announces-her-staff-will-be-reduced-to-skeleton-crew-in-response-to-covid-19.html>

Court System

- The Suffolk County House of Correction and the Massachusetts Department of Correction are suspending visitation. Learn more on updated information [here](#).

New Hanover and Pender Counties, North Carolina

Court System

- Criminal courts only open for the following:
- First Appearances (jail defendants only)
- Bond hearings (jail defendants only)
- Probation hearings (jail defendants only)
- Probable cause hearings (jail defendants only)
- And any other non-jury hearings for jail defendants
- Civil courts only open for the following:
 - Domestic Violence Protective Orders
 - Temporary Restraining Orders
 - Civil Commitment Orders
 - All small claims actions
 - Special Proceedings
 - Juvenile Custody Orders
 - Estate Proceedings

<https://www.wect.com/2020/03/13/jury-trials-postponed-five-county-area-next-week/>

Westchester County, New York

Office

- With the exception of court appearances, all interaction with outside agencies, such as meetings and training sessions, must occur by phone or via the internet, or must be canceled.
- Interviews with witnesses and victims should take place by phone when possible and appropriate.
- In addition, all travel on behalf of our office is canceled.

<https://news.hamlethub.com/chappaqua/life/2676-westchester-county-district-attorney-operations-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

County of Maui, Hawaii

Court System

- Hawaii State Judiciary is asking any potential juror who has a fever, cough, or other respiratory symptoms; has returned to Hawaii within the last 14 days after traveling internationally; or who has COVID-19 or has been in close contact with a person who has or is suspected of having COVID-19 to call the court to reschedule your jury service.
- The courts have also redoubled their efforts to clean high-traffic areas more frequently, including restrooms, elevators, door handles, bannisters, counters, tables, chairs, and benches
- Attorneys and self-represented litigants whose scheduled appearances require inter-island travel may ask to appear telephonically or by video conference as permitted by court rules.
- On March 19, 2020, Hawaii shut down all courts until April 30, 2020.

Bullitt County, Kentucky

Court System

- The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court has issued an order that essentially suspends all criminal cases where the defendant is not in custody until April 10th
 - Will use a video link to the Corrections Center to handle in custody arraignments, bond hearings, guilty pleas, and revocation hearings
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San Diego County, California

Court System

- The juvenile courts are consolidating into two departments to minimize the number of attorneys appearing in court
- The courts are also allowing the youth in custody to appear via skype when appropriate and out of custody youth can appear via phone
- The courts, public defenders and DA's have met to discuss continuing most out of custody court hearings for a few weeks
- On March 21, 2020, San Diego County announced its plan for non-violent inmates to be considered for early release. Learn more [here](#).

Office

- Allowing the DDA's who are not needed in court to work from home in preparing their cases
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Davidson County, Tennessee

Court System

- State Supreme Court's ORDER SUSPENDING IN-PERSON COURT PROCEEDINGS, filed March 13, 2020 in the matter of IN RE: COVID-19 PANDEMIC - ADM2020-00428.



Fwd_IN_RE_COVID-19_PANDEMIC_-_Order_ADM2020-00428.zip

<http://www.tncourts.gov/>

Des Moines County, Iowa

Court System

- The Chief Justice has signed a supervisory order detailing preparations aimed at minimizing coronavirus/COVID-19 impact on the services the judicial branch provides Iowans. The order is posted

on the Iowa Judicial Branch COVID-19 Information and Updates webpage
at <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/covid-19-information-and-updates/>



031220_COVID-19_Order.pdf

State of Florida

Court System

- No grand juries to be convened, no trials to occur, no jury pools to be summoned
- Speedy trial period has been tolled for all criminal and juvenile proceedings

<https://www.floridasupremecourt.org/content/download/631744/7178881/AOSC20-13.pdf>



FW_COVID-19_Update_-_FAQ_by_JAC.zip

- As of May 13, a few State Attorneys are returning staff to their offices under controlled settings now and others will be over the next few weeks. A couple are waiting until July. Courts will be encouraged to start re-opening albeit largely with remote proceedings in June, and no trials are allowed anywhere in Florida until July, if then.
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Salt Lake County, Utah

Court System

- ALL jury trials are continued – including for in custody defendants – for at least three weeks. If you have a trial set before April 3, 2020, it will need to be rescheduled
- Absent an exigency, the next court dates for cases with out of custody defendants will be at least 45 days out (after May 1, 2020)
- Debt Collection, Landlord/Tenant, Supplemental Hearing and Probate calendars are cancelled and will be rescheduled for a date after April 3, 2020
- All civil & domestic hearings and bench trials are canceled and will be rescheduled after April 3, 2020. Phone conferences will replace hearings when practicable
- Except for Protective Order Hearings, all commissioner hearings are canceled and will be rescheduled after April 3, 2020. Phone conferences will replace hearings when practicable
- All therapeutic courts are cancelled and will be reset after April 3, 2020
- The court and its staff will remain available to handle any exigent matters
- All specialty courts have been cancelled for 3 weeks
- All jury trials have been cancelled for 3 weeks
- Any non-essential hearings involving out of custody defendants are being continued 45 days
- The prison has stopped transporting prisoners to court. We have some video court capabilities so some hearings will be handled via video.
- Juvenile probation team has cancelled all face to face meetings, drug testing, classes etc. everything is to be done over the phone

- Juvenile public defenders are not meeting with clients in person and have been told not to come to their office but to work from home.
- Victim advocate/counseling team is not doing in person appointments
- Signage is being posted around the courthouse and office with hygiene information to encourage hand washing, we already had sanitizer stations throughout the office
- The county updated the sick leave policy to ensure people stay home to allow work from home options. Additionally, paid leave for benefit non-eligible employees is being offered and benefited employees are being offered paid admin leave if their sick banks drop below 40 hours.
- We have an email/text blast system in place to provide any urgent updates.
- The State Bar has lifted the limit on online CLE and has cancelled group events



General Order 20-009 Court Proceedings and Court Operations.pdf

Alberta Province, Canada

Court System




- Cancelling jury trials until May 31st
- There will be greater latitude to have parties, including witnesses use video and audio links
- Lawyers can phone in to court for mundane scheduling/arraignment matters
- Release will be encouraged as it relates to bail
- For now bench trials will continue, but as virus cases increase, in custody matters take priority over with dwindling staff.

Franklin County, Ohio



Corona (003).docx

1 of 1

Franklin County Common Pleas Court
General, Domestic Relations/Juvenile, and Probate Divisions
Franklin County Municipal Court

PRESS RELEASE

March 13, 2020
Contact: Stephen L. McInrosh, 614.525.3550

Court Operations

The Administrative Judges of the Franklin County Common Pleas Court - General, Domestic Relations/Juvenile and Probate Divisions and the Franklin County Municipal Court met Thursday, March 12, 2020, to discuss their respective Court's ongoing response to COVID-19. The Judges discussed several actions.

All Courts will remain open to the public and provide all essential services. However, to protect the public health, citizens are discouraged from visiting the Franklin County Court Complex for matters that are not essential or time sensitive.

The Judges have agreed to continue to a future date all civil and criminal matters, depending upon the specific Court, scheduled for a jury trial, hearing, or disposition during March 16, 2020, through April 10, 2020. The Judges and their staff will conduct as many pre-trial conferences via telecommunication as possible. Case-by-case exceptions to continuances may be ordered at the discretion of each Court. Further, the Courts are not limited in the ability to rule on motions. Electronic filing continues to be available.

To obtain information about the operations of a specific court, please refer to the following web sites:
Common Pleas General Division <http://www.fccourts.org>
Common Pleas Domestic Relations/Juvenile Divisions <https://dri.fccourts.org/>
Common Pleas Probate Court <https://probate.franklincountyoohio.us/>
Franklin County Municipal Court <http://www.fccmclerk.com/>

The Common Pleas and Municipal Clerk's offices will remain open.

For **Common Pleas** jurors, beginning Monday, March 16, 2020, citizens summoned for Common Pleas jury duty should not report, as jury service is cancelled through April 10, 2020. For **Municipal Court** jurors, those summoned for March 16, 2020, are still required to report for jury duty. Municipal Court will provide further information regarding subsequent weeks.

The Judges will re-evaluate on Monday, April 6, 2020, to determine whether the suspension will be extended beyond April 10, 2020.

The Courts will continue to provide updates as necessary.

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

State of Montana

Court System

- Chief Justice of the Montana Supreme Court issued the below order



COVID-19 Memo from Chief Justice McGrath.pdf

Leavenworth County, Kansas

Court System

Courts are looking at suspending jury trials until April or May. Our Chief Justice asked the Courts to implement a plan that only utilize emergency functions.

16th Judicial Circuit, Kentucky

Court System

- Kentucky has cancelled all court appearances for defendants who are not incarcerated until after April 10
- All civil cases are cancelled until after April 10
- The only cases being heard are emergency domestic violence cases, emergency family court cases, and criminal cases for incarcerated defendants.
- ROR'ing defendants in all non-violent and non-sex offenses
- All incarcerated defendants will appear in court via closed circuit TV
- All but two meetings of the grand jury in March and April have been cancelled
- Resolving as many cases as possible by information to bypass the grand jury
- Judges are scheduling change of plea dates in May or later
- Banned non-employees from our office, even police officers
- As many meetings as possible by phone or video conference. Any face to face meetings that must take place are being done externally.



AdminOrder2020-08ReCOVID-19Emergency.pdf

8th Judicial Circuit, Florida

Court System

- Administrative Order entered today by Chief Justice Cannady regarding covid-19 emergency procedures
- All jury trials are suspended from March 16 through March 27.
- Speedy Trial time limits are suspended during this time.

- All rules limiting the use of communication equipment to conduct hearings are suspended during this time.
- Judges allow inmates to appear by videoconference from the jail in all proceedings whenever possible.
- Judges allow the presence of Defendants to be waived, whenever possible.
- Judges, Court Staff, Clerks of the Court, and Court Security jointly develop a plan for the handling of any mass dockets for which they are responsible, which allows for the separation of those waiting to be heard into smaller groups through the use of additional “waiting courtrooms” or hallways.



AOSC20-13 In re COVID-19 Emergency Procedures in the Florida State Courts.pdf

Tribal Prosecutors Office, Pablo, Montana

Court System

- Rescheduled all jury trials for March and April. Before they resume there will be a screening process for potential jurors about COVID-19
 - All routine criminal court appearances for the next two weeks are rescheduled
 - Criminal court appearances will be limited for that two-week period to those in custody
 - Went through jail roster and have resolved as many cases as possible, releasing a number of individuals
 - Law enforcement has been encouraged to only do custodial arrests for crimes of violence
 - Even though court appearances have been radically reduced there will be a prosecutor and a staff person in the office on all business days. The remaining attorneys will continue to produce complaints from home, telecommuting and porting in to their desktop computers
 - Will have to significantly increase the number of days we do court appearances to clear out the backlog upon return
 - Working to come up with a staggered court schedule to avoid have large numbers of individuals in the courtroom.
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Nova Scotia, Canada

Court System

- All jury trials have been suspended for 60 days
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Whiteside County, Illinois



In Re Coronavirus (COVID-19) Precautions.pdf

Audubon County, Iowa

Office

- Purchased the equipment requisite for all staff to work from home indefinitely
- Calls are being forwarded to employees' cell phones, and are working from laptops/tablets

Court System

- Supreme Court has instructed to have telephonic court when at all possible
 - Chief judge sent out an email asking attorneys to waive speedy trial obligations and then continue out hearings, so we have a grace period for a while.
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State of North Carolina

Court System

MEMORANDUM

TO: Judicial Branch Employees

FROM: NCAOC Director McKinley Wooten, Jr.

DATE: March 13, 2020

SUBJECT: NCAOC Temporary Audio Video Policy

NCAOC has received several inquiries from court officials about the ability to conduct court proceedings through audio video procedures in order to minimize in-person proceedings, and thereby, reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. Various General Statutes authorize conducting certain court proceedings via audio video transmission. With limited exceptions, each statute requires prior NCAOC approval for both the procedures and equipment. However, the time required for these approvals is impractical in the current situation.

In response to these concerns, we are providing a temporary pre-approval for the use of audio video procedures, when authorized by statute, in lieu of requiring each county to submit an individual request for approval. This pre-approval for the use of audio video procedures applies if both of the following two conditions are satisfied:

- 1) There is a statute authorizing the use of audio video procedures to conduct the hearing in question. Audio video procedures currently are authorized by the following statutes:
 - G.S. 7B-1906(h) (continued custody review hearing)
 - G.S. 15A-245(a)(3) (search warrant)
 - G.S. 15A-304(d)(3) (arrest warrant)
 - G.S. 15A-511(a1) (initial appearance)
 - G.S. 15A-532(b) & (c) (release conditions)

- G.S. 15A-601(a1) & (a2) (first appearance)
- G.S. 15A-941(b) & (c) (arraignment)
- G.S. 50B-2(e) (ex parte domestic violence protective order)
- G.S. 50C-6(e) (ex parte civil no-contact order)
- G.S. 122C-268(g) (inpatient commitment)

- 2) The equipment and procedures satisfy the following minimum basic requirements:
- The parties to the proceeding must be able to see and hear each other;
 - The defendant / respondent must be able to communicate fully and confidentially with counsel, if the defendant / respondent has counsel;
 - If the proceeding is confidential (*e.*, juvenile or inpatient commitment), the procedures must be reasonably secure to preserve the confidentiality of the proceeding; and
 - If the hearing must be recorded, the procedures must have recording capability.

Please note that this pre-approval does not authorize remote testimony for dispositive proceedings, *e.g.*, trials; those are case-by-case determinations and are allowed only where authorized by the North Carolina General Statutes. See G.S. 15A-1225.1, et seq.

Until further notice, we will not be approving individual requests for audio video procedures. We encourage court officials to follow this temporary policy in determining whether to use audio video procedures for a court proceeding. However, once the public health concerns have passed, we will return to the traditional approval process, which may require retroactive approval of any audio video equipment and procedures implemented during this temporary pre-approval period.

Thank you for your dedicated service to our great state.

Raleigh, North Carolina

“FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 13, 2020

Chief Justice Beasley Announces Judicial Branch Response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

RALEIGH – Chief Justice Cheri Beasley announced several directives today affecting the operation of the North Carolina court system aimed at protecting public safety during the outbreak of COVID-19 (coronavirus).

In an order entered today, the Chief Justice has directed that local courts postpone most cases in district and superior court for at least 30 days. While the work of the courts must continue and courthouses remain open, the first priority of the court system must be the health and safety of the public and of the employees who serve them.

“We must be proactive in taking steps to prioritize the health and safety of our fellow North Carolinians while also maintaining the integrity of our judicial system,” said Chief Justice Beasley. “Today’s order will allow us to drastically reduce the exposure caused by crowded sessions of court, which often bring hundreds of people at a time into our courthouses.”

Although the superior courts and district courts remain open, **effective Monday, March 16, superior court and district court proceedings will be rescheduled for at least 30 days**, with some exceptions. These exceptions include (see more in the Supreme Court Order)

- the proceeding will be conducted remotely;
- the proceeding is necessary to preserve the right to due process of law (e.g., a first appearance or bond hearing, the appointment of counsel for an indigent defendant, a probation hearing, a probable cause hearing, etc.);
- the proceeding is for the purpose of obtaining emergency relief (e.g., a domestic violence protection order, temporary restraining order, juvenile custody order, judicial consent to juvenile medical treatment order, civil commitment order, etc.); or
- the senior resident superior court judge, chief business court judge, or chief district court judge determines that the proceeding can be conducted under conditions that protect the health and safety of all participants.

This emergency directive does not apply to any proceeding in which a jury has already been empaneled or to any grand juries already empaneled. It also does not prohibit a judge or other judicial officer from exercising any in chambers or ex parte jurisdiction conferred by law upon that judge or judicial officer, as provided by law.

Additionally, the superior courts and district courts are encouraged to liberally grant additional accommodations to parties, witnesses, attorneys, and others with business before the courts who are at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

All counties will post a notice at all court facilities directing **any person who has likely been exposed to COVID-19 to not enter the courthouse**. Any person who has likely been exposed and has business before the courts should contact the clerk of superior court's office by telephone or other remote means for further instruction.

As the courts work to postpone thousands of cases, court officials will notify parties and their attorneys of new hearing and trial dates.

The Judicial Branch will be providing continuous updated information and answers to frequently asked questions on our website, Nccourts.gov. The public is encouraged to visit Nccourts.gov as a first resort to determine if a question can be answered without calling the local courthouse.

Online court services are available for handling some court business, including citation services, paying your ticket, court payments, signing up for court date notifications and reminders, eFiling court documents for certain courts and case types, and more.

MORE INFORMATION

- [Read the Supreme Court Order](#)
- Watch the announcement on the [Judicial Branch Facebook page](#)
- Nccourts.gov
- [Online court services](#)

Pennington County, South Dakota

Office

- Two thirds of staff are working from home. Administrative staff are working in shifts at the office (5-11 and 11-5) to permit folks to do the things that cannot be done remotely
- Attorneys are either in court or at home with, of course, some time in the office to gather things to work on at home
- Cancelled in-person meetings other than the most urgent ones
- Much of our community programming for diversion has also been cancelled/postponed, either by the providers or by the hosts.

Court System

- Clearing jail space by releasing virtually all offenders who have no violent history and are not arrested on a violent offense
 - Cutting our 24/7 drug and alcohol testing by approximately 90%
 - Issuing citations in lieu of arrests for all misdemeanors other than domestic violence assaults (which, by statute, require an arrest)
 - Holding probation/parole violations in abeyance unless they involve violent offenders or new felony charges.
 - On March 27, 2020, Pennington County's State's Attorney, Mark Vargo, issued a letter to the Criminal Justice Community Engagement Workgroup. Learn more [here](#). Additionally view infographic [here](#).
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DeKalb County, Indiana

Court System

- Sent the attached letter to all LE who work in the county to only arrest dangerous persons, and persons required by statute (in Indiana, OWI and domestic battery defendants must be arrested on-sight)
- Regarding long formed charges, using a criminal summons whenever possible, rather than warrants. Courts have been advised that these two policies will expire June 1, when we return to more appropriate arrests and warrants
- On criminal summonses, requested the courts to kick them out to May for initial hearings, when we otherwise would be requesting speed
- We asked the courts to temporarily suspend their rule that all criminal defendants personally attend status hearing on Mondays at 1pm
- Over the next 3 days, intend to cull out low risk defendants and medically frail defendants from our local jail's pretrial population
- If the courthouse is eventually closed, we have loosely discussed meeting with the judge and PD at the jail to do initial hearings as necessary



2020-03-11 ALL LEO arrests-signed.pdf

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2020

New Mexico courts will remain open despite school closures

SANTA FE – New Mexico state courts will remain open for business although school closures have been ordered.

“Courts will take every precaution to protect the community and minimize public health risks from the coronavirus while remaining open for business,” Supreme Court Chief Justice Judith K. Nakamura said today. “Even during this health emergency our state court system must continue to provide essential justice services to the public guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States and New Mexico.”

People are strongly encouraged not to visit courthouses if they recently:

- Showed any signs of respiratory infection, fever or cough.
- Have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.
- Traveled to high-risk countries with widespread transmission of COVID-19.
- Visited another state experiencing widespread community transmission of COVID-19.

Jurors should contact their local court before reporting for jury duty if they have traveled to areas with a concentration of confirmed coronavirus cases.

The Judiciary has implemented the following measures to minimize the spread of coronavirus and safeguard visitors to courthouses and people who work there:

- Limiting the number of people summoned to jury duty to no more than 25 people. If additional jurors are needed, courts will keep them in separate rooms.
- Conducting any court proceeding in a manner to minimize contact among people in the courtroom. Hearings can be conducted by telephone and video, when possible, to eliminate the need for attorneys and litigants to be physically present in a courtroom.
- Postponing civil jury trials that have not started, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Civil non-jury trials will proceed unless rescheduled by a judge.
- Continuing criminal proceedings to ensure protection of constitutional rights, but judges may restrict the number of people in courtrooms.

- Limiting the number of inmates transported from jails to courthouses for hearings.
- Suspending out-of-state work travel for judicial employees and judges.
- Working with local governments and private landlords to ensure enhanced cleaning of courthouses.
- Jurors who are ill will be immediately released and sent home.

A “[find a court](#)” directory with telephone phone numbers for district, magistrate, metropolitan and appellate courts is available on the Judiciary’s website.

Court updates related to coronavirus are available on the [New Mexico Courts website](#), and information about the state courts also can be found on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/nmcourts>

Updated [order](#) issued March 17, 2020. Updated [article](#) published on March 19, 2020.

State of Louisiana

Court System

- Supreme Court of Louisiana [Order](#)
 - LASC Chief [Letter](#) issued March 12, 2020
 - [Additional Measures](#) for COVID-19 Public Health Emergency
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State of Maryland

Court System

- IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER ON STATEWIDE CLOSING OF THE COURTS TO THE PUBLIC DUE TO THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY WHEREAS, Pursuant to the Maryland Constitution, Article IV § 18, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals is granted authority as the administrative head of the Judicial Branch of the State; and WHEREAS, In instances of emergency conditions, whether natural or otherwise, that significantly disrupt access to or the operations of one or more courts or other judicial facilities of the State or the ability of the Judiciary to operate effectively, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals may be required to determine the extent to which court operations or judicial functions shall continue; and WHEREAS, Due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, and consistent with guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control, an emergency exists that poses a threat of imminent and potentially lethal harm to individuals who come into contact with a court or judicial facility and personnel; and WHEREAS, To the extent possible, the courts and judicial offices and units have remained operational and provided scheduled and required events while balancing the health and safety needs of court visitors and personnel during the early stage of this emergency; and WHEREAS, Escalation of the emergency now requires further measures to protect the health and safety of Maryland residents and Judiciary personnel, NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mary Ellen Barbera, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and

administrative head of the Judicial Branch, pursuant to the authority conferred by Article IV, § 18 of the Maryland Constitution, do hereby order this 13th day of March, 2020, as follows:

- (a) All courts in the Maryland Judiciary, court offices, administrative offices, units of the Judiciary, and the Offices of the Clerks of the Circuit Courts shall be closed to the public on an emergency basis, effective March 16, 2020; however, Judiciary operations shall continue to the extent practicable. Maryland Judiciary personnel shall report as scheduled, unless otherwise excused by their administrative head.
- (b) The following mandatory matters shall continue to be scheduled and heard in keeping with the urgency of those matters and consistent with statutory requirements, either in person or remotely pursuant to the Administrative Order on Remote Electronic Participation in Judicial Proceedings, June 18, 2018, with the court to notify all participants necessary to the proceeding:
(1) In the Court of Appeals: (A) certain election law matters (B) certain petitions for Writs of Mandamus (C) certain certified questions of law (D) quarantine and isolation matters (2) In the Court of Special Appeals: (A) requests for injunctive relief pending appeal (B) appeals in cases in which a lack of action would result in a dispositive outcome (C) appeals from quarantine and isolation petitions (3) In the Circuit Courts: (A) bail reviews (B) arraignments (C) emergency Habeas Corpus petitions (D) juvenile detention hearings (E) CINA shelter care and adjudication on shelter care (F) emergency delinquency Page 3 of 4 (G) domestic violence protective petitions (H) appeals from peace orders (I) family law emergencies including petitions for guardianship (J) temporary restraining orders (K) emergency evaluation petitions (L) quarantine and isolation petitions (M) extradition cases (N) Rule 4-271 determinations (Hicks) (O) search warrants (P) body attachments (Q) contempt (4) In the District Court: (A) bail reviews (B) emergency evaluation petitions (C) emergency risk protective order petitions (D) domestic violence protective petitions (E) peace order petitions (F) quarantine and isolation violations (G) initial appearances (H) search warrants (I) applications for statement of charges (J) acceptance of bail bonds (K) bench warrant satisfactions (L) body attachments (M) contempt
- (c) To the extent that an individual court has the capacity to hear additional matters, this Administrative Order does not prohibit such proceedings, with access to members of the public as justice requires. Courts shall notify all participants to the proceeding if a matter will proceed.
- (d) This Administrative Order does not affect the courts' consideration or resolution of matters that can be addressed without a proceeding that involves testimony or argument.
- (e) All other matters scheduled to be heard between March 16, 2020, through April 3, 2020, are postponed pending further order of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.
- (f) Court personnel will be available by telephone and mail and paper filings will be received. MDEC continues to be available for electronic filings.
- (g) To the extent this Administrative Order conflicts with any other extant administrative order, whether local or statewide, this Administrative Order shall prevail.
- (h) This Administrative Order will be revised as circumstances warrant.

Baltimore City, Maryland

- Baltimore State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby to dismiss pending criminal charges against anyone arrested for possessing drugs including heroin, attempted distribution of any drug, prostitution, trespassing, minor traffic offenses, open container and urinating in public. Learn more [here](#).

Multnomah County, Oregon

Court System

- Multnomah County District Attorney's Office [webpage](#) dedicated to COVID-19
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State of New York

Orange County, New York

- Orange County District Attorney David Hoovler [announced](#) overall office operations during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Brooklyn, New York

- Brooklyn District Attorney's Office [announced](#) that it would not prosecute low level offenses that do not jeopardize public safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.
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State of West Virginia

Mercer County, West Virginia

- Mercer County Prosecuting Attorney's Office [announced](#) changes at local offices due to COVID-19 concerns.
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State of Texas

Montgomery County, Texas

- Montgomery County District Attorney's Office [released an article](#) announcing overall changes in operations during COVID-19.
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State of Arizona

Court System

- On March 18, 2020, the Arizona Supreme Court issued an order declaring a statewide emergency in response to COVID-19. Learn more [here](#).

Los Angeles County, California

Court System

- On March 20, 2020, Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey announced prosecutors have been directed to take steps to lower the number of people in local jails and area courthouses as part of an effort to curb the spread of the coronavirus. Learn more [here](#).
 - April 15 article: “[City of Los Angeles prosecuting businesses that violate safer-at-home orders](#)”
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Cook County, Illinois

Court System

- Cook County State’s Attorney Kim Foxx is halting prosecutions of narcotics and cannabis cases amid the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19. Learn more [here](#).
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State of Connecticut

Court System

- Learn more about how the novel coronavirus is currently affecting the Connecticut criminal justice system [here](#).
 - May 6 article: “[State, federal officials form COVID-19 joint task force in Connecticut](#)”
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Escambia County, Florida

Court System

- On March 22, 2020, Escambia County announced that it would close all facilities and programs to public in-person access, while changing to online services. Learn more [here](#).
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State of Wisconsin

Court System

- On March 22, 2020, the Supreme Court of Wisconsin [issued a postponement](#) of all March 30 and April 1 oral arguments.
- On March 22, 2020, the Supreme Court of Wisconsin issued a [remote hearing order](#).

On March 23, 2020, the Governor of Wisconsin [released an order](#) declaring a public health emergency.

State of Utah

Court System

- On March 21, 2020, the Utah Supreme Court issued a [Pandemic Administrative Order](#). Additional updates [here](#).
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State of South Carolina

Court System

- As of March 23, South Carolina has concentrated on pretrial detainees during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - All courts have been cancelled until May 1 with bond hearings for new arrestees happening daily.
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State of Kentucky

Court System

- As of March 23, Kentucky has not yet begun systematic release of prisoners and are releasing most misdemeanants and child support civil contemptors, who have been arrested, at their initial appearance.
-

Yamhill County, Oregon

Court System

- As of March 23, no release of prisoners yet, but the local jail did “force release” individuals with less than 30 days left on their sentence and some others particularly vulnerable to illness, along with pre-trial detainees. Their plan is to reduce the number so that they can eliminate double bunking (two to a cell) and have a vacant area that would quarantine individuals should the need arise.
-

State of Kansas

Court System

- On March 16, 2020, the Supreme Court of the State of Kansas issued an [administrative order](#) regarding restrictions to mitigate COVID-19 spread.
- On March 18, 2020, the Supreme Court of the State of Kansas issued an [administrative order](#) imposing statewide judiciary restricted operations due to COVID-19 emergency.
- On March 20, 2020, the State of Kansas issued an [administrative order](#) clarifying emergency operations from the court regarding emergency protection from abuse and stalking.

Lyon County, Kansas

- County Attorney Marc Goodman [announced](#) that his office stands fully staffed to set the table for trials once everything gets back to normal.
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Oswego County, New York

Court System

- On March 23, 2020, Oswego County District Attorney announced new procedures for the court system and DA's Office made necessary by the COVID-19 outbreak. Learn more [here](#).
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State of California

Court System

- On March 24, 2020, California chief justice suspended all jury trials statewide in response to coronavirus. Learn more [here](#).
- On March 26, 2020, the California District Attorneys Association issued a letter two letters ([first](#) and [second](#)) to presiding judges and the Presiding Judge Committee.
- On March 29, 2020, California courts modify speedy trial rules, endorse remote hearings. Learn more [here](#).

Riverside County, California

- The Riverside County District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation has set up a hotline number to report suspected price gouging during the state-of-emergency. Learn more [here](#).

Alameda County, California

- "[Alameda County Superior Court Adds New Remote Services](#)"
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State of North Carolina

Court System

- The North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys' response to COVID-19 can be found [here](#).
- The Cumberland County District Attorney's Office response to COVID-19 can be found [here](#).
- On March 24, 2020, the Cumberland County District Attorney issued an advisory memo Monday on enforcement of Wolf's directive, which ordered the closure of all "non-life-sustaining" businesses. Learn more [here](#).

State of Colorado

Court System

- On March 25, 2020, Colorado issued a “Guidance to Counties, Municipalities, Law Enforcement Agencies, and Detention Centers.” Learn more [here](#).
 - On March 26, 2020, Colorado released an [executive order](#) temporarily suspending certain regulatory statues concerning criminal justice.
 - On May 5, 2020, the Colorado Supreme Court issued an updated order regarding COVID-19. Learn more [here](#).
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State of Indiana

Court System

- For more information on Indiana’s response to COVID-19, see [here](#).
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State of Oklahoma

Court System

- On March 16, 2020, the Supreme Court of the State of Oklahoma issued the [first emergency order](#) in response to COVID-19.
 - On March 23, 2020, the Supreme Court of the State of Oklahoma issued a [second emergency order](#) in response to COVID-19.
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State of Ohio

Court System

- For more information on the Supreme Court of Ohio’s guidance to local courts in response to COVID-19, see [here](#). Additional information can be found [here](#).
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Northwestern, Massachusetts

Court System

- Northwestern District Attorney’s Office is hoping to reduce the risk faced by pretrial detainees who are being held in local correctional facilities by considering bail reductions for low-risk inmates. Learn more [here](#).

State of Tennessee

Court System

- On March 25, 2020, the Tennessee Supreme Court issued an order announcing that courts will remain open during the coronavirus outbreak, but extending the suspension of most in-person judicial proceedings through April 30. Learn more [here](#).
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Anne Arundel County, Maryland

Court System

- [“Person called for Anne Arundel jury duty tests positive for coronavirus”](#)

Charlottesville, Virginia

Court System

- [“Coronavirus court suspension leaves lawyers in uncharted territory”](#)
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American Civil Liberties Union

- [“ACLU Demands the Release From Prisons and Jails of Communities Vulnerable to COVID-19”](#)
 - [Downloadable](#) - ACLU Letter to State and Local Officials on Covid-19 and the Criminal Justice System
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Miami-Dade County, Florida

Court System

- On March 27, 2020, the Miami-Dade County State Attorney’s Office issued a summary for the community surrounding COVID-19. Learn more [here](#). For additional information on their internal webpage, see [here](#).
 - On March 27, 2020, the Miami-Dade County State Attorney’s Office also issued a statement regarding response to jail issues. Learn more [here](#).
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Yakima, Washington

Court System

- Yakima County District Attorney Joseph Brusic announced that criminal cases have been postponed through April – further noting that although there would be fewer arrests, local police are still enforcing the law. Learn more [here](#).

Clark County, Washington

Court System

- [“Clark County attorneys navigate legal system amid pandemic”](#)
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Washington County, Arkansas

Court System

- April 13 article: [“Washington County eyes remote meeting technology”](#)
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San Juan County, Washington

Court System

- April 13 article: [“Sheriff and Prosecuting Attorney on order enforcement”](#)
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Harris County, Texas

Court System

- April 12 article: [“Harris County Attorney creates website for residents to report price gouging during coronavirus pandemic”](#)
 - April 13 article: [“Harris County lawyers’ association calls on judges to halt unnecessary in-person hearings”](#)
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Norfolk County, Massachusetts

Court System

- April 14 article: [“District Attorney Morrissey posts resources for current crisis”](#)
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La Salle County, Illinois

Court System

- April 15 article: [“La Salle County State's Attorney Karen Donnelly sets up email account for free legal help on overdue bills”](#)

Boulder County Bar Association

Court System

- April 13 article: “[County attorneys available for free legal advice during coronavirus outbreak](#)”
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State of Alaska

Court System

- April 24 order regarding the “Relaxation and Suspension of Various Court Rules Based on the COVID-19 Pandemic” – learn more [here](#).
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Green County, Pennsylvania

Court System

- May 7 article: “[Coronavirus In Greene County: District Attorney Says He Will Not Prosecute Business Owners Who Reopen In Defiance Of Gov. Wolf’s Shutdown Order](#)”
 - May 11 live video: “[Greene Co. District Attorney To Not Prosecute Businesses Who Open Ahead of Yellow Phase](#)”
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Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

Court System

- May 10 article: “[Lancaster County District Attorney’s Office says it won’t prosecute stay-at-home order violations](#)”
-

York County, Pennsylvania

Court System

- May 11 article: “[York County District Attorney: the county will not be enforcing the governor’s stay-at-home order](#)”
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Dauphin County, Pennsylvania

Court System

- May 10 article: “[Dauphin, York DAs, say they won’t take immediate action against businesses that reopen in defiance of state order](#)”

Augusta-Richmond County, Georgia

Court System

- May 11 article: "[District Attorney: COVID-19 shutdowns are causing backlogs in court cases](#)"