

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE  
OF OKLAHOMA, SITTING IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY

DISTRICT COURT WASHINGTON CO OK  
JILL L. SPITZER, COURT CLERK

MAR 18 2020

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BY

Case No. AO-2020-1

DEPUTY

**AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**  
**REGARDING CERTAIN IN-PERSON COURT PROCEEDINGS**  
**AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TEMPORARY EMERGENCY MEASURES**

On or about the 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020, the Supreme Court of the State of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals issued the First Emergency Joint Order Regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster, SCAD No. 2020-24; further, the President of the United States and the Governor of the State of Oklahoma have declared a state of emergency amid the COVID-19 (Coronavirus 2019) pandemic. In compliance therewith, and in an effort to help curb the potential spread of the disease, the undersigned Chief Judge for Washington County, hereby **ORDERS, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**, the following temporary measures affecting the work of the District Court of Washington County:

Unless otherwise specifically ordered by the Court, all matters subject to be heard by any judge of the Washington District Court **through April 15, 2020** shall be subject to the following:

CRIMINAL DIVISION MATTERS:

1. Criminal Felony dockets and/or hearings, including Motions to Accelerate and Motions to Revoke, subject only to constitutional limitation, shall be as follows:
  - a. Cases involving persons incarcerated in the Washington County jail shall be heard as scheduled via video conferencing (no change).
  - b. Cases involving all other persons:
    - i. March 27, 2020 (Judge Thomas) are continued to April 24, 2020 at the same time previously set. Defendants are ordered to appear in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor courtroom of the Washington County Courthouse.
    - ii. April 1, 2020 (Judge Vaclaw) are continued to April 22, 2020 at the same time previously set. Defendants are ordered to appear in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor courtroom of the Washington County Courthouse.
  - a. All preliminary hearings are stricken and have been rescheduled pursuant to written order of the Court filed in each individual court file. The Defendant shall appear on May 1, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) floor courtroom of the Washington County Courthouse before Judge Thomas for the purpose of setting a new date for preliminary hearing. If, however, the Defendant wants to waive his/her right to a preliminary hearing, the hearing will be held as scheduled by the assigned judge by remote participation. To waive the right to a preliminary hearing, contact the Washington County District Attorney's Office (918-337-2860) for instructions.
2. Criminal Misdemeanor dockets and/or hearings, including Motions to Accelerate and Applications to Revoke, subject only to constitutional limitation, shall be as follows:

- a. Cases involving persons incarcerated in the Washington County jail shall be heard as scheduled via video conferencing (no change).
- b. Cases involving all other persons:
  - i. March 25, 2020 (Judge Sigler) are continued to April 30, 2020 at the same time previously set. Defendants are ordered to appear in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor courtroom of the Washington County Courthouse.
  - ii. April 8, 2020 (Judge Sigler) are continued to May 20, 2020 at the same time previously set. Defendants are ordered to appear in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor courtroom of the Washington County Courthouse.
  - iii. April 15, 2020 (Judge Sigler) are continued to June 24, 2020 at the same time previously set. Defendant are ordered to appear in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor courtroom of the Washington County Courthouse.
3. Arraignments, Bond Hearings, Probable Cause hearings, etc. will be heard as usual (no change) in Courtroom 2B of the Washington County Courthouse.
4. Community Sentencing Review Hearings, Drug Court and Mental Health Court shall be set by the assigned judge; participants will be contacted by the Court or the Coordinator/Supervisor of each respective court.
5. All Traffic Court dockets are continued to Monday, April 20, 2020 at the same time previously scheduled.
6. Fines and Costs docket scheduled for March 27, 2020 is continued to July 24, 2020 at the same time previously scheduled. Payments must be made on a monthly basis as previously ordered. The "call in" procedure for payment and obtaining a new court date remains in place. If you are unable to make your payments as previously ordered, you must appear in person on July 27, 2020.
7. Expungements currently set on April 3, 2020 are continued to May 8, 2020 at the same time previously scheduled.

#### CIVIL DIVISION MATTERS:

8. Civil Division (CV, CJ, CS) dockets and/or hearings set on:
  - a. March 26, 2020 are continued to April 23, 2020 at the same time previously scheduled.
  - b. April 9, 2020 are continued to May 7, 2020 at the same time previously scheduled.
  - c. March 31, 2020 are continued to April 21, 2020 at the same time previously scheduled.
9. Family Division dockets and/or hearings are cancelled and shall be reset by the assigned judge upon Application from any party to the case, with the exception of emergency child custody hearings. Emergency child custody matters shall be heard by the assigned judge on a case by case basis.
10. Protective Order matters currently set for hearing are continued to April 16, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.; Emergency Protective Orders previously issued shall remain in full force and effect; emergency protective order matters arising in the interim will be heard by the assigned judge on a case by case basis.
11. Juvenile Delinquent matters currently set will be rescheduled by the Court; all necessary parties will be contacted by the Court or the Office of Juvenile Affairs;

- emergencies arising in the interim will be heard by the assigned judge on a case by case basis.
12. Juvenile Deprived matters currently set will be rescheduled by the Court; all necessary parties will be contacted by the Court or the Department of Human Services; emergencies arising in the interim will be heard by the assigned judge on a case by case basis.
  13. Child Support Enforcement cases set on April 3, 2020 are continued to May 8, 2020 the same time previously scheduled.
  14. Adult Protective Services matters currently set will be rescheduled by the Court; all necessary parties will be contacted by the Court or the Department of Human Services; emergencies arising in the interim will be heard by the assigned judge on a case by case basis.
  15. Adult and Juvenile Mental Health matters currently set will be rescheduled by the Court; all necessary parties will be contacted by the Court or the Department of Human Services; emergencies arising in the interim will be heard by the assigned judge on a case by case basis.
  16. Probate/Guardianship/Adoption matters currently set on:
    - a. March 25, 2020 are continued to April 22, 2020 at the same time previously scheduled.
    - b. April 8, 2020 are continued to May 6, 2020 at the same time previously scheduled.
  17. Name Change hearings currently scheduled for March 26, 2020 and April 9, 2020 are continued to April 23, 2020 at the same time previously scheduled.
  18. Small Claims and Eviction docket scheduled set:
    - a. March 24, 2020 is continued to April 21, 2020 at the same time previously scheduled.
    - b. March 31, 2020 is continued to May 12, 2020 at the same time previously scheduled.
    - c. April 7, 2020 is continued to June 2, 2020 at the same time previously scheduled.
    - d. April 14, 2020 is continued to June 9, 2020 at the same time previously scheduled.
  19. Asset/Claims for Exemption docket set:
    - a. March 26, 2020 is continued to April 16, 2020 at the same time previously scheduled.
    - b. April 2, 2020 is continued to May 14, 2020 at the same time previously scheduled.

All permitted in-court proceedings shall be limited to the attorneys, parties, witnesses, security officers, and other persons deemed necessary by the Court. The Court will determine the manner in which in-court proceedings are to be conducted to assure the health and safety of the participants to the extent possible.

The Court shall grant continuances requested for reasons related to public health and involving persons who are prohibited from entering any courtroom, court clerk's office, judges' offices, jury room or other facility used by the district courts, to wit:

1. Anyone diagnosed with or who has had direct contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 (coronavirus).
2. Anyone with any symptoms such as fever, severe cough, or shortness of breath, or who has had direct contact with any such persons.
3. Anyone who has traveled to any country outside the U.S. in the past 14 days, and/or lives with or have had close contact with any such persons.
4. Anyone quarantined or isolated by any doctor or anyone voluntarily self-quarantines.

Any attorney and/or party who falls within these categories, and who have cases on the court's dockets, shall call the specific judge's bailiff and request a new court date as necessary.

Judges are charged with the responsibility of ensuring that core constitutional functions and rights are protected. Additionally, court clerks are charged with ensuring that court functions continue. Nevertheless, the Court and court clerks are urged to limit in-person courtroom contact for the foreseeable future as much as possible by utilizing available technology. Resolving matters without in-person proceedings is highly encouraged when reasonably feasible. To that end, this Order expressly authorizes proceedings by telephone, video, teleconference or other means that do not involve in-person contact as allowed by the Oklahoma Court Rules and Statutes. In that regard, the court hereby implements the following:

1. Criminal Status, Arraignments, and scheduling dockets for in-custody Defendants will continue to be conducted by video. Attorneys should meet with in-custody Defendants prior to the docket to have any necessary paper work prepared in advance.
2. Preliminary hearing, revocation hearings, acceleration hearings and termination hearings require the in-person appearance of the Defendant.
3. Orders that require a judges' signature should be submitted to the assigned judges' bailiff by mail or email when possible, with instructions for filing.
4. Attorneys are directed to contact the Washington County Court Clerk (918-337-2870) for instructions on filing documents by electronic means.

All judicial staff should report to work as normal.

This order is subject to extension or modification as necessary. For further information, contact the Washington County Court Clerk at 918-337-2870.

DONE THIS 18<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2020.



The Honorable Linda S. Thomas  
Judge of the District Court