

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING COURT OPERATIONS UNDER COVID-19 ADVISORY

**THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
20-04**

In light of the public health risk posed by the Novel Corona Virus and COVID-19 and the advisories and orders from the Centers for Disease Control, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and local public health departments, recommending active steps to slow the spread of the disease and precautions to reduce the risk of exposure, effective immediately the Courts of the 3rd Judicial District will be operating with reduced staff and a focus on matters of immediate concern for public safety.

On April 6, 2020 Governor Polis issued a Stay at Home order, see *Executive Order: Ordering Coloradans to Stay Home Due to the Presence of COVID-19 in the state* effective through April 26, 2020.

On April 16, 2020 Chief Justice Coates of the Colorado Supreme Court issued an order that all jury trials will be suspended through May 31, 2020.

Therefore, after consultation with the Management Team of the 3rd Judicial District I am issuing the following Chief Judge Administrative Order.

Pursuant to the authority granted in Chief Justice Directive 95-01 and Chief Justice Order issued April 17, 2020 it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

Due to this crisis we can no longer maintain normal functions and will be operating on an emergency basis. The 3rd Judicial District will remain open at this time, Monday through Friday, 8 AM – 12 noon and 1 PM – 4 PM for **essential functions** (as explained below) with a reduced staff.

All jury trials scheduled for April and May will be continued. There will be no jurors called for service during this time. Each individual Judge will meet with the prosecuting attorney and defense counsel to resolve.

All court hearings that are currently set through May 31, 2020 will be continued for 60 days **except for the following which will go forward as scheduled:**

- (1) Preliminary hearings unless Counsel contacts the Court to continue and to waive any time frames.
- (2) All criminal motions hearings that are set for trial unless Counsel contacts the Court to continue and to waive any time frames to include jury trials which are already set.
- (3) All temporary or permanent protection order hearings to include TRPO and ERPO.
- (4) All Criminal Procedure Rule 5 advisement for incarcerated persons and the initial setting of bail.

(5) Revocation hearings on complaints to revoke probation involving an incarcerated defendant;

(6) Proceedings necessary to protect the constitutional rights of criminal defendants including bond-related matters and plea agreements for incarcerated individuals.

(7) Detention hearings for juvenile delinquency cases.

(8) Emergency shelter hearings in Dependency and Neglect matters.

(9) Petitions for appointment of an emergency guardian and/or special conservator.

(10) Hearings on motions to restrict parenting time and parental abduction prevention and other Emergency Domestic Relations cases.

(11) Emergency mental health proceedings.

The Court is requesting for all cases that must be continued as defined in this order, Counsel will contact the appropriate court to receive new court dates.


The Las Animas County and Huerfano County courthouses have been closed to the public for county business. The courts are open for limited functions as outlined above. Therefore, for this limited time the public will not be allowed to observe hearings that are being held for the essential functions as outlined above.

This crisis is changing hourly and this order will be updated as needed.

If you have any questions please direct them to Mr. Bob Kreiman, Court Executive at 719 846-3316.

Dated: April 17, 2020

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leslie J. Geels", written in a cursive style.

Chief Judge, Third Judicial District