

5-6-2020 - Notice Regarding COVID-19 and Court and Probation Operations:

The Court and Probation Offices will remain open but, in the interest of public safety, court and probation operations will be limited through June 1, 2020 to in person hearings for **essential emergency public safety matters only**. Notices will be sent in cases that are rescheduled.

We understand there is concern about COVID-19 and the following guidance and procedures for the 3rd Judicial District are in place:

Limitations on Entry to Facilities:

- a. Persons who meet any of the following criteria are PROHIBITED from entering either courthouse and instead should call the court to reschedule their court date, request to appear by phone, or receive further instructions:
 - i. Anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 and that does not have written verification that the person has received a subsequent test confirming that person is currently virus-free;
 - ii. Anyone who has been in direct contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the preceding fourteen days;
 - iii. Anyone experiencing a fever, cough, shortness of breath, any other respiratory illness or flu-like symptoms
- b. Anyone who screens in with temperature above 100.4 degrees if testing is done at security.

If any of these three criteria apply, please call the appropriate Clerk's Office to reschedule your court date or request to appear by telephone if you are not represented by an attorney or contact your attorney to file a request for a continuance or a telephone appearance. If you are subpoenaed as a witness in a case, please contact the attorney or party issuing the subpoena to explain the circumstances and discuss the options:

- **Walsenburg** – (719) 738-1040
- **Trinidad** – (719) 846-3316

Public safety matters include:

- a. Preliminary hearings unless Counsel contacts the Court to continue and to waive any time frames.
- b. 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.
- c. All temporary or permanent protection order hearings to include TRPO and ERPO.
- d. All Criminal Procedure Rule 5 advisement for incarcerated persons and the initial setting of bail.
- e. Revocation hearings on complaints to revoke probation involving an incarcerated defendant;
- f. Proceedings necessary to protect the constitutional rights of criminal defendants including bond-related matters and plea agreements for incarcerated individuals.
- g. Detention hearings for juvenile delinquency cases.
- h. Emergency shelter hearings in Dependency and Neglect matters.

- i. Petitions for appointment of an emergency guardian and/or special conservator
- j. Hearings on motions to restrict parenting time and parental abduction prevention and other Emergency Domestic Relations cases.
- k. Emergency mental health proceedings.
- l. Any other operations or matters that in the discretion the Chief Judge are deemed necessary to prevent a risk of imminent financial hardship or imminent risk to the health, safety or welfare of any individual or the community at large, which shall be determined by the Chief Judge on a case-by-case basis after consideration of the circumstances existing for a particular case.

Jury reporting:

If you have been summoned for jury duty **through JUNE 30, 2020, DO NOT REPORT**. Any trials through June 2020 have been or will be postponed.

You may contact the appropriate Jury Commissioner if you have any questions.

- **Walsenburg** – 719-695-6506 esther.hibpshman@judicial.state.co.us
- **Trinidad** – 719 497-8204 brittany.casias@judicial.state.co.us

Probation reporting:

Probation officers continue meeting with clients as needed. If you are scheduled to meet with the Probation Department and you haven't heard from us, please call your probation officer directly.

For Victim Assistance, Useful Public Service questions or if you are unable to reach your probation officer please contact probation reception in your location to reschedule your appointment at:

- **Walsenburg** - 719-695-6554
- **Trinidad** - (719) 497-8268

Collections and payments:

Collections intake and meetings will be conducted via telephone until further notice. You may complete [an application for payment plan](#) and email to collections. Payments may be made online at https://www.courts.state.co.us/Courts/District/Collections.cfm?District_ID=3

Currently, the courts are not taking in person payments. You may pay online, send payment in the U.S. mail, place payment in a drop box in each courthouse lobby or, in limited situations, pay by phone via credit card.

Please contact the appropriate collections investigator to schedule appointments or set up payment plans:

- **Walsenburg**
Kate Johnson
kathryn.johnson@judicial.state.co.us
719-695-6555
- **Trinidad** –
Katerina DeHerrera
katerina.deherrera@judicial.state.co.us

Family Court Facilitator:

Meetings with the family court facilitator will be conducted via telephone until further notice. Please contact Bob Major at robert.major@judicial.state.co.us or (719) 695-6569

Pro se Court Filings:

The courts in the 3rd Judicial District will temporarily accept fax or email filings at (719) 738-1267 (Walsenburg) HuerfanoCaseFilings@judicial.state.co.us and (719) 497-8267 (Trinidad) LasAnimasCaseFilings@judicial.state.co.us ***for parties without an attorney only.***

Updates on court operations will be posted at (www.courts.state.co.us).

Until further notice, the court will permit persons to wear surgical masks and gloves in court and probation buildings if they so desire. Persons may also bring small plastic containers of hand sanitizer into court and probation buildings.

The following sources should be frequently consulted to determine the most current information. If you have symptoms and think you have been exposed, call a health care provider.

- Las Animas & Huerfano County Health Department:
 - If you have general questions about COVID-19, you can call **CO HELP at 303-389-1687** or **1-877-462-2911**. You can also email COHELP@RMPDC.org for answers in English and Spanish (Español), Mandarin (普通话), and more.
 - <https://www.colorado.gov/la-h-health>
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDHPE)
 - www.cdphe.state.co.us
- CO HELP: COVID-19 hotline: 303-389-1687 or 1-877-462-2911
 - <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/2019-novel-coronavirus>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - www.cdc.gov
 - COVID-19 link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>