

DISTRICT COURT, LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO  
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**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER ASSIGNING LARIMER  
COUNTY COURT JUDGES AS ACTING DISTRICT  
COURT JUDGES TO PRESIDE OVER EXTREME RISK  
PROTECTION ORDER PROCEEDINGS FILED  
PURSUANT TO C.R.S. §13-14.5-101, et seq.**

**COURT USE ONLY**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2019-18**

House Bill 19-1177 (the “Deputy Zackari Parrish III Violence Prevention Act”) adds article 14.5 to title 13, C.R.S. and sets forth procedures for obtaining an extreme risk protection order based on allegations that the respondent poses a significant risk of causing personal injury to self or others in the near future by having in his or her custody or control a firearm, or by purchasing, possessing, or receiving a firearm. C.R.S. §§13-14.5-103(1), -104(3). Colorado courts shall begin accepting petitions requesting the issuance of an extreme risk protection order on January 1, 2020. C.R.S. §13-14.5-114(4).

The purpose of this administrative order is to ensure that the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District provides quick access to the courts for persons seeking the issuance of a temporary extreme risk protection order or an extreme risk protection order, and to safeguard the due process rights of all parties involved in the proceedings.

A petition for a temporary extreme risk protection order must be heard on the day the petition is filed or the day following the day the petition was filed. C.R.S. §13-14.5-103(4). Upon entry of a temporary extreme risk protection order, the court must schedule a hearing within fourteen days from the date the temporary order was issued to determine whether grounds exist to issue a 364 day extreme risk protection order. C.R.S. §13-14.5-103(5)(a). If a petition pursuant to C.R.S. §27-65-106 (a mental health proceeding) is also filed against the respondent, “a court of competent jurisdiction can hear that petition at the same time as the hearing for a temporary extreme risk protection order or the hearing for a continuing extreme risk protection order.” C.R.S. §13-14.5-103(1). Thus, there are times when it may be necessary or advisable for the court to hear the petition for a temporary extreme risk protection order and the mental health petition during the same expedited hearing.

Although a petition for an extreme risk protection order, filed pursuant to C.R.S. §13-14.5-104 (as opposed to a petition for a temporary extreme risk protection order filed under

C.R.S. §13-14.5-103), does not specify the time period in which the hearing must be held, the nature of the relief requested invokes the need for the court to hold the hearing as expeditiously as possible giving due consideration to the representations contained in the petition, the procedural requisites of the statute, and other legal requirements. As such, it is imperative that all county and district court judges of the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District be readily available to preside over hearings on petitions for temporary and regular extreme risk protection orders. Moreover, pursuant to the Act, “the district and county courts of the state of Colorado shall have jurisdiction over proceedings pursuant to this article 14.5,” C.R.S. §13-14.5-104(8), which confirms a recognition by the Colorado General Assembly of the need for both county and district court judges to have jurisdiction to preside over temporary extreme risk protection order and extreme risk protection order hearings.

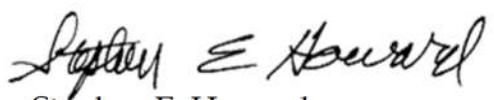
Before issuing an extreme risk protection order under C.R.S. §13-14.5-105, the court must consider whether the respondent meets the standard for a court-ordered evaluation for persons with mental health disorders pursuant to C.R.S. §27-65-106. If the court so finds, the court must order a mental health evaluation and treatment pursuant to C.R.S. §27-65-106(6). *See* C.R.S. §13-14.5-105(8)(a). Prior to issuing an extreme risk protection order, the court must consider whether the respondent meets the criteria for an emergency mental health commitment, under C.R.S. §§ 27-81-111 or 27-82-107. If the court so finds, the court must also order an emergency commitment. C.R.S. §13-14.5-105(8)(b).

Based on the foregoing, it is hereby ordered, pursuant to Chief Justice Directive 95-01(4)(a)(ii), and article VI, section 5(4) of the Colorado Constitution, that all Larimer County Court judges and Jackson County Court Judge Chelsea Rengel are assigned to act as district court judges to preside over all temporary extreme risk protection order and extreme risk protection order cases from inception to conclusion of all matters relating to that particular case, and as authorized in article 14.5 of title 13, C.R.S., the county court judge acting as a district court judge under this order shall have authority to issue orders under sections 27-65-106, 27-81-111, and 27-82-107, C.R.S., whether the order issued as part of the extreme risk protection order case or a separate mental health case that is being heard at the same time as the extreme risk protection order case. The county court judges are also authorized to act as district court judges over all matters under article 14.5 of title 13, when covering a proceeding for another judge in the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. The county court judge may sign any orders issued while acting under the authority provided by this administrative order as an “acting district court judge,” but the failure to include that designation in the order shall not affect the county court judge’s authority to act as a district court judge as provided in this administrative order.

If the Larimer County Attorney files a separate mental health action against the respondent after the county court judge has issued a temporary extreme risk protection order or a continuing extreme risk protection order, the extreme risk protection order case shall be transferred to the district court division that is assigned the mental health case.

SO ORDERED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2019.

BY THE COURT:



Stephen E. Howard  
Chief Judge, 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District