



STATE OF COLORADO
Fourteenth Judicial District

**AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUDGE 2020-04
COURT OPERATIONS UNDER COVID-19 ADVISORY**

In March, 2020, a State of Emergency was declared in the State of Colorado related to the presence of the COVID-19 virus. Furthermore, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has been working to stop the spread of COVID-19 and has implemented emergency measures throughout the pandemic. The Governor of the State of Colorado has previously issued several Executive and Public Health Orders concerning the operation of businesses and personal pursuits for all Coloradans. Similarly, our public health agencies in the 14th Judicial District have previously issued various orders for their citizens restricting activities.

Many governmental agencies have imposed and relaxed restrictions throughout the State of Colorado. The Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court issued a directive to all Chief Judges to “prioritize safety for the public and the staff” when establishing local policies taking into consideration all relevant factors in a continuing attempt to slow the spread of the disease and taking precautions to reduce the risk of exposure. Throughout the pandemic, I have tried to follow reasonable scientific recommendations and have adjusted local Chief Judge Orders accordingly.

I remain very committed to providing safety for staff and the public in our facilities. As the Chief Judge of this judicial district, I have a responsibility and obligation to provide a safe workplace for all employees and a safe facility for those who have business with the court or probation department. I am particularly sensitive to the fact that many of our court and probation users, especially jurors, are required to attend hearings and appointments with the court and probation.

Pursuant to the authority granted in Chief Justice Directive 95-01 and in consideration of the Chief Justice’s Orders Regarding COVID-19 and Operation of Colorado State Courts, as amended, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. **Persons Who May Not Enter Court Related Facilities At Any Time:** Persons who meet any of the below criteria are prohibited from entering these facilities and instead should call the relevant Court or Probation office to reschedule their court date, request to appear by phone, or to receive further instructions:
 - a. Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19
 - in the last six days OR
 - has not been fever-free for the past 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medications) OR
 - has had any COVID-19 symptoms (see “c.” below) that began fewer than six days ago, and these symptoms have not improved.
 - b. Anyone who is not fully vaccinated per C.D.C. guidelines and has been in close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the past six days.
 - c. Anyone who is experiencing a fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, chills, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting or diarrhea without having tested negative for COVID-19 in the past six days.

2. **Operations:** The courts and probation department will be open for business between 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., except weekends and legal holidays. The offices may occasionally be closed to accommodate staff meetings. The number of employees who are physically present and working at the court and probation offices, however, may be reduced or eliminated as coordinated by the Court Executive, Chief Probation Officer, and Clerks of Court, with the approval of the Chief Judge. Due to the reduction in staffing levels, the processing of filings that are not related to public safety matters may be delayed. Members of the public are encouraged to contact the relevant Court or Probation Office at the numbers below prior to coming to a court facility to see if their matter can be handled remotely.

Probation:

Grand County (970) 725-3495
Moffat County (970) 824-7304
Routt County (970) 879-1003

Combined Courts:

Grand County (970) 725-3357 ext. 7
Moffat County (970) 824-8254 ext. 7
Routt County (970) 879-5020 ext. 7

Individuals may choose to wear face coverings designed to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in court-related facilities. Removal of face coverings will only be required for legitimate business or law enforcement needs. Everyone in court-related facilities is required to respect other's personal preference and individual need. Physical distancing is encouraged where practical.

3. **Filings:** All court users are encouraged to only utilize electronic means for filing any document with the court. Fax numbers and email addresses for each court location are as follows:

Grand: email: grandclerk@judicial.state.co.us; fax: (970) 725-3216
Moffat: email: moffatclerk@judicial.state.co.us; fax: (970) 824-8923
Routt: email: routtclerk@judicial.state.co.us; fax: (970) 879-3531

4. **Use of remote-hearing technology:** The courts of the 14th Judicial District will continue to utilize remote hearing technology for court appearances as deemed appropriate by the presiding judicial officer.

5. **Hearings on all public safety matters:** The courts will continue to conduct prompt hearings on all public safety matters. Public safety matters are defined as follows:

- a. Petitions for temporary civil protection orders and permanent protection order hearings;
- b. Petitions for temporary emergency risk protection orders and hearings on emergency risk protection orders
- c. For incarcerated or detained persons, criminal advisements, the initial setting of bail, bond-related hearings, plea hearings, sentencing hearings and other proceedings that must occur by a deadline imposed by statute;
- d. Revocation hearings on complaints to revoke probation involving an incarcerated defendant or a juvenile;
- e. Detention hearings in juvenile delinquency cases;

- f. Shelter hearings in dependency and neglect cases or other juvenile (JV) proceedings;
 - g. Petitions for appointment of an emergency guardian and/or special conservator;
 - h. Hearings on motions to restrict parenting time and parental abduction prevention;
 - i. Emergency mental health proceedings;
 - j. Other proceedings deemed necessary by the assigned judge (in consultation with the Chief Judge) to prevent a substantial risk of imminent financial hardship, or imminent risk to the health, safety or welfare of an individual or members of the community.
6. **Jury Trials:** Individual judges will make the decision whether a jury trial can be safely conducted as scheduled, taking into consideration the needs of court users and recommendations from the reliable scientific or medical community.

Circumstances have been changing rapidly and will likely continue to do so. The Chief Judge will continue to monitor available information and recommendations from reliable medical and scientific organizations and this order may be revised as necessary. All are encouraged to regularly check the website for the Colorado Judicial Branch (www.courts.state.co.us) for the latest information, including the page that is specific to the 14th Judicial District.

SO ORDERED this 16th day of May, 2022.



Michael A. O'Hara, III, Chief Judge