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| District Court, Weld County, State of Colorado Court Address: 901 9 th Avenue, Greeley, CO 80631 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2038, Greeley, CO 80632-2038 | DATE FILED: May 19, 2021 1:18 PM ▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲ Case Number: 2021 CV 01 Division 1 |
| ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2021-04 | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING COURT OPERATIONS UNDER COVID-19 ADVISORY</p> | |

Based on the continuing public health risks posed by COVID-19 (“novel coronavirus”) and the advisories, information, and data circulated by the Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”), the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (“CDPHE”), and local public health departments recommending active steps to slow the spread of the disease and precautions to reduce the risk of exposure; the number of persons residing in Weld County who have been fully vaccinated or are in the vaccination process and the increased availability of vaccines; and pursuant to the authority granted to chief judges in Chief Justice Directive 95-01 and the directives found in Chief Justice Boatright’s Operational Order dated May 6, 2021 and attached hereto,

It is hereby ORDERED:

1. Operations: The clerk’s office will be open 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm., Monday through Friday, excepting legal holidays. Staffing levels may be reduced as coordinated by the Clerk of Court and the Court Executive, with the approval of the Chief Judge, as deemed necessary for health reasons. Paper filings will be accepted at the clerk’s office; however, persons are encouraged to filed pleadings by mail to the Clerk of Court, P.O. Box 2038, Greeley, Colorado 80632, and may also be sent electronically through CCE for those with access. Please note that pleadings not related to public safety matters may not be processed as quickly as usual due to the volume of business.

2. Court Proceedings.

- a. The courts will continue to conduct hearings on public safety matters and will endeavor to utilize audio or video appearances as much as possible. Public safety matters include:
 - i. Petitions for temporary civil protection orders and permanent protection order hearings;
 - ii. Petitions for temporary emergency risk protection orders and hearings on emergency risk protection orders;
 - iii. Crim.P. Rule 5 advisement for incarcerated persons and the initial setting of bail;
 - iv. Revocation hearings on complaints to revoke probation involving an incarcerated defendant;
 - v. Proceedings necessary to protect the constitutional rights of criminal defendants including bond-related matters and plea agreements for incarcerated individuals;
 - vi. Detention hearings for juvenile delinquency cases, which will continue to be held in Division 14 as normally scheduled;
 - vii. Shelter hearings in dependency and neglect cases or other juvenile proceedings;
 - viii. Petitions for appointment of an emergency guardian and/or special conservator;
 - ix. Hearings on motions to restrict parenting time and parental abduction prevention;
 - x. Mental health proceedings;
 - xi. Any other operations, matters, or individual cases that in the discretion of the chief judge are deemed necessary.
- b. When hearings are conducted for any matter set forth in Section 2.a above, judicial officers shall endeavor to limit in person participation and encourage and accommodate telephone and/or video appearance for all participants and members of the public to the extent possible.
- c. The 19th Judicial District county and district courts will continue expanding the types of proceedings, beyond those listed in Section 2.a, that are capable of being conducted entirely through audio or video appearances by all parties, attorneys, witnesses, and members of the public.
- d. Matters that are not contained in section 2.a above may be held by audio or video as permitted under Colorado law or court rules without first conferring with the Chief Judge, but the judicial officer must confer with the Clerk of Court or designee to ensure that there is sufficient staffing to cover the proceeding(s).

- e. Judicial officers may conduct an in person proceeding for matters not listed in 2. if the judicial officer, after giving due consideration to all attendant circumstances existing in that individual case, determines that conducting the proceeding through audio or video means cannot reasonably be accomplished.
 - f. Jury Trials: Jury trials have resumed in the 19th Judicial District on a limited basis due to social distancing recommendations.
 - g. FED and CRCP 120 matters: the court will accept new filings on these matters, subject to the provisions of any applicable state or federal health orders pertaining to FED and Rule 120 matters.
 - h. Entrance into the main courthouse shall occur through the west door only until further notice. The south door to Centennial Center will be closed until further notice, and therefore all persons must enter Centennial Center through the north entrance.
 - i. For hearings that are held by WebEx, information for participants or members of the public to connect to a 19th Judicial District virtual courtroom proceeding via WebEx is found at:

https://www.courts.state.co.us/Courts/District/Custom.cfm?District_ID=19&Page_ID=867
 - j. Please check with security or the clerk's window to determine where the matter is being heard.
3. **Jury Calls.** Jury calls have resumed in the 19th Judicial District on a limited basis due to social distancing recommendations. The provisions of Chief Judge Administrative Order 2020-05 Order Authorizing Release of Jurors for Health Reasons shall continue to apply until further notice. The Court will continue to evaluate public health information related to COVID-19 and determine whether the restrictions on calling jurors should be extended past August 3, 2020.
4. **Probation Offices.** The Chief Probation Officer, through consultation with the Chief Judge, will create operational plans that will include in person operations, as well as the use of telephone or video when deemed necessary.
5. **Court Information Center.** The Court Information Center (CIC) has resumed walk-in services on a limited basis. The staff assigned to the CIC shall endeavor to continue providing services through telephone conferral and electronic means as much as possible.

6. **Face coverings and hand sanitizer.** Pursuant to Administrative Orders 2020-16, as extended by Administrative Order 2021-01(B), facial coverings must be worn in the 19th Judicial District Courts and Probation buildings. The 19th Judicial District has a supply of face coverings for use when circumstances necessitate the court providing a face covering to a person. Many courtrooms and other areas of the court buildings have hand sanitizer available for use by the public. Members of the public may bring small plastic containers of hand sanitizer into the buildings.
7. Until further notice, the Court and Probation continue to follow the social distancing recommendations of the CDC and CDPHE of six feet, as well as the recommendations as to the number of persons gathering in one place.

The Chief Judge will continue to monitor available information and recommendations from health organizations and this order may be revised or extended, as deemed necessary.

Date: May 19, 2021.

BY THE COURT


James F. Hartmann
Chief Judge, 19th Judicial District

Supreme Court of Colorado

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Denver, CO 80203
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BRIAN D. BOATRIGHT
CHIEF JUSTICE

SUPREME COURT OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

Updated Order Regarding COVID-19 and Operation of Colorado State Courts

On March 16 and 20, April 16, and May 5, 2020, Chief Justice Coats issued orders concerning the administration of the state courts during the COVID 19 pandemic (“May 5 Operation Order”). Chief Justice Coats entered subsequent orders on June 15 and July 24, 2020, concerning the safe assembly of jury pools, but did not otherwise modify the May 5 Operation Order. Now, in my capacity as Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court, I hereby withdraw the May 5 Operation Order and order as follows:

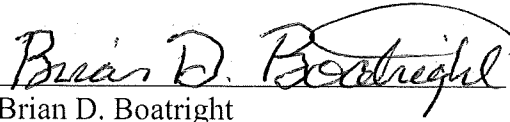
Recognizing the important role our courts serve in administering justice, providing a forum for resolution of disputes, and providing resolution of legal affairs, our state courts must look toward expanding operations, including in-person operations, to provide greater service to the public. Public health remains a high priority, especially considering our unique structure wherein individuals are compelled to attend court proceedings. The Chief Judges of each of our judicial districts must determine how and when to expand in-person services and should do so in consultation with local officials, other judicial officers, attorneys, and other interested stakeholders. In some locations, the Chief Judge may determine that expanding in-person services is not possible due to physical space limitations, courthouse staffing, security considerations, COVID metrics in the county and/or judicial district, or other factors unique to the judicial district, county, courthouse, or individual case. If in-person proceedings cannot be expanded consistent with protecting public health, the Chief Judge must make diligent efforts to offer services remotely. Chief Judges must ensure that the clerks’ offices are staffed during normal business hours established in the county and/or judicial district, and that the public is able to effectively communicate with the clerk’s office in person, telephonically, and through electronic means.

Our courts must continue to provide essential functions, even where they cannot be provided remotely, and these matters must take priority over other matters. Consistent with the May 5 Operation Order, these essential functions include:

1. Petitions for temporary civil protection orders and permanent protection order hearings;
2. Petitions for temporary extreme risk protection order hearings and hearings on extreme risk protection orders;
3. Crim.P. Rule 5 advisement for incarcerated persons and the initial setting of bail;
4. Revocation hearings on complaints to revoke probation involving an incarcerated defendant;
5. Proceedings necessary to protect the constitutional rights of criminal defendants including bond-related matters and plea agreements for incarcerated individuals;
6. Detention hearings for juvenile delinquency cases;
7. Shelter hearings in dependency and neglect cases or other juvenile proceedings;
8. Petitions for appointment of an emergency guardian and/or special conservator;
9. Hearings on motions to restrict parenting time and parental abduction prevention;
10. Mental health proceedings; and
11. Any other operations, matters, or individual cases that in the discretion of the Chief Judge are deemed necessary.

In assembling jury pools, the Chief Judges shall consult with local health officials in the judicial district, when such conferral is available to formulate procedures for safely assembling jurors, and prioritize public health in the jury assembly process and throughout the course of a jury trial. When conferral with a local health officials is not available in a judicial district, the Chief Judge must inform the Chief Justice of the information considered by the Chief Judge, such as recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control or from local health departments in another judicial district that is similarly situated, in formulating the district's plan for jury trials.

Done at Denver, Colorado this 6th day of May, 2021.


Brian D. Boatright
Chief Justice, Colorado Supreme Court