

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF DOUGLAS COUNTY, KANSAS
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 20-15
ORDER REGARDING COURT OPERATIONS DURING COVID-19
PANDEMIC

This Order is being issued in response to the recent outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Douglas County, Kansas. For many this disease appears to cause only flu-like symptoms, for others it can pose a serious risk.

In February of this year, the centers of Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) issued “Interim Guidance” recommending that all employers consider how best to decrease the spread of COVID-19. On March 11, 2020, The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic. On March 12, 2020, Kansas Governor Laura Kelly declared a state of emergency to address this developing threat.

This Court recognizes the significant number of identified and projected cases of COVID-19 and the severity of risk posed to the public, and we are working closely in conjunction with local public health authorities to actively implement necessary procedures to address current concerns. In consideration of all the foregoing, it is hereby ORDERED that, effective Friday, March 13, 2020:

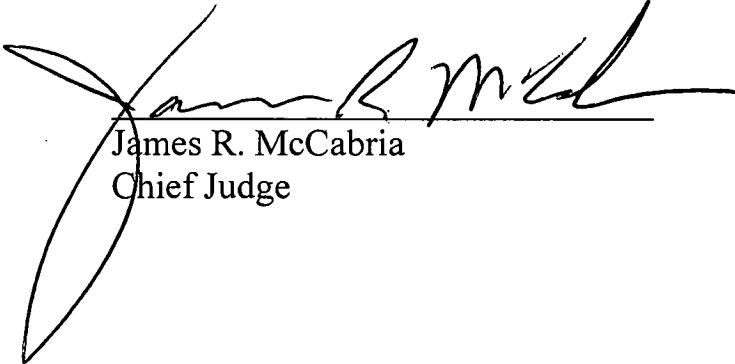
1. The Kansas 7th Judicial District courthouse remains open. Staff in the Clerk’s Office will remain open for filings, including contact by telephone.

2. Nothing about this order affects filings made through the e-Flex system.
3. Any party, or their counsel, who has concerns about any non-jury court proceedings scheduled for an in-court appearance should feel free to contact the presiding judge regarding any request for continuance. Counsel and parties should feel free to request, where appropriate, appearances by telephone on all civil matters and on any specially set non-evidentiary criminal matter. Criminal matters set on regular division docket calls remain as scheduled.
4. The Court is continuing to review the appropriateness of how these issues may impact any jury trial (criminal or civil) presently scheduled in this district. There are no jury trials scheduled for the week of March 16, 2020. Further administrative orders may issue that affect such trial settings, and individual divisions may take such actions as they deem appropriate to address any case in that division. The Court notes that the Clerk has already been contacted by citizens who have received summons for jury duty expressing concerns about having to appear as a result of concerns over COVID-19.
5. The Court will continue to hear matters at the courthouse as determined by the individual judge. Nothing in this Order affects the Court's consideration of any matters that can be resolved without oral argument or court appearance.
6. Court Services officers are hereby authorized to allow probationers to report by telephone and not in person to the courthouse.

7. All DNA swabs, urinalysis collection and testing, and home visits are immediately suspended until further order of the Court.

Visit <https://www.douglascountyks.org/depts/district-court> for up-to-date information on individual dockets. We will post all notices for each department online.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT this 13 day of March 2020.



James R. McCabria
Chief Judge