

IN THE GENERAL SESSIONS COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

2020 MAY -7 PM 12:20

GENERAL ORDER REGARDING OPERATIONS UNDER ADM2020-00428

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Tennessee Supreme Court issued IN RE: COVID-19 PANDEMIC No. ADM2020-00428 [03/13/2020] declaring a state of emergency for the Judicial Branch of Tennessee and activating a Continuity of Operations Plan for all Tennessee courts; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 2020, the Tennessee Supreme Court approved the 6th Judicial District's plan to reopen courts with restrictions to continue minimizing in-person appearances as provided by the Tennessee Supreme Court under the various iterations of ADM2020-00428 that have followed since 03/13/2020;

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED AND DECREED:

1. Every effort shall be made between the State and the Defense Bar to minimize report back settings on the docket. This includes *pro se* cases.
2. Effective immediately, all litter pickup and community service currently required as a condition of any case disposition is waived. These conditions shall not be required on any future resolution until the Court lifts this Order.
3. DUI School and the Victim Impact Panel (VIP) shall and do remain valid conditions of probation. The Tennessee Department of Safety will enforce the DUI School requirement for reinstatement of a valid TDL. Any current reset or agreed disposition with all conditions met shall be set in cost collections.
4. If a report back matter is set in May, and there is an agreement, either the DA or Defense Counsel shall notify General Teeters, NOT the Sessions Clerk, before 2 pm on the day previous to taking the matter before the Court for signature in the 2nd Sessions Courtroom. General Teeters will provide the Clerk with the information so as to assist the Clerk with creating the following day's docket. General Teeters will present the agreements for signature.
5. The policy outlined in 4, *supra*, also applies to any agreement not requiring a guilty plea. Examples include, but are not limited to, agreed dispositions of a *nolle pros*, dismiss on costs, pass dispositions, etc.
6. For all Agreed Resets:

All attorneys shall be regularly reviewing their future dockets for possible agreements related to resets or dispositions. In those matters where there is an agreed RESET either the DA or Defense Counsel, but not both, shall notify the Knox County Sessions Court Clerk by email to reset cases. The email address for resets is sessions@knoxcounty.org. Reset emails should state only the Defendants name, case numbers and IDN with the current court date and agreed reset date. Please do not include legal explanations for this calendaring function.

7. Bonded Video Pleas:

Where a plea agreement disposition is reached on a pending bonded case, the case may be set for plea by video on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Such pleas shall occur on the TEAMS video platform. All parties to the plea will need to download the TEAMS App and provide their email address to the Sessions Court Judicial Law Clerk, Esther Roberts, at esther.roberts@knoxcounty.org. She has a database of all DA and Knox County PD emails. She will issue a TEAMS invitation to prepare for the video plea.

Once a plea agreement has been reached, Defense Counsel shall copy the DA and inform the Sessions Clerk at sessions.court@knoxcounty.org that there is a case for plea with the date of submission. The Sessions Clerk will need the defendant's name, IDN, case numbers and present court date. The Sessions Clerk will need the specifics of the plea deal and the warrants to which the defendant will plea to provide the necessary documentation for execution. Before the plea, the Sessions Clerk will provide copies to Defense Counsel of all documentation needing signatures (Examples: warrants, rights waivers, DUI enhancement notifications, restitution orders, etc.). Defense Counsel will have their client execute signatures and those signed documents shall be emailed back to the Sessions Clerk at sessions.court@knoxcounty.org. Once the Sessions Clerk is in receipt of the signed documents, the Sessions Clerk will notify the Sessions Court Judicial Administrator, Donna Corbitt donna.corbitt@knoxcounty.org, that there are current cases for plea. The cases will be placed on the video docket and all parties should be available to join the Team video conference at the specified time.

Per Curiam

Knox County General Sessions Judges