

**IN THE CRIMINAL COURT FOR THE SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF**  
**TENNESSEE**

KNOX COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT  
KNOXVILLE, TN

**IN RE:** }  
**COVID-19 PANDEMIC** }  
 }  
 } **GENERAL ORDER: 6/30/20**  
 }  
**JUDICIARY SITTING EN BANC** }

**GENERAL TEMPORARY ORDER REGARDING CRIMINAL COURT DOCKETS**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Tennessee Supreme Court orders related thereto, the Criminal Court Judges of the Sixth Judicial District sitting en banc do hereby enter the following order to address scheduling matters on the Criminal Court dockets in July 2020:

1. Beginning July 6, 2020, the criminal courts will resume their regular daily schedule of court, with the exception being the following pre-scheduled court closures:
  - a. Division I: July 6, 13, 20-24, and 27-31;
  - b. Division II: July 6-10.
  
2. In order to facilitate the hearing of jail cases via video conferencing, the courts will follow the schedule below for jail cases. A division will have priority to hear jail cases via video conferencing on its scheduled day at 9 a.m. Other divisions may schedule jail cases on their off-days, but they will be heard only when the scheduled division has concluded its jail docket.
  - a. Division I Jail Days: July 8, 10, and 15.
  - b. Division II Jail Days: July 13, 16, 20, 22, 24, 28, and 30.
  - c. Division III Jail Days: July 6, 7, 9, 14, 17, 21, 23, 27, 29, and 31.

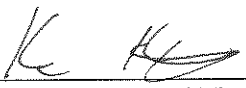
3. The courts will resume the regular hearing of bonded matters effective July 6, 2020. The courts will attempt to schedule as many of their bonded matters as possible on their non-jail days.
4. With the exception of jury trial settings, all other cases—jail and bonded—will be heard via video conference on the record, unless otherwise specifically ordered by the court. Two video kiosks will be available for use during video hearings. One kiosk will remain in the attorney consultation area on the 1st Floor, while a second kiosk has been added outside of the Division II courtroom. Attorneys are encouraged to use the kiosks only if you already have other business in the City-County Building. If you do not have other business at the City-County Building, the parties are encouraged to video conference remotely in order to limit the number of people in the building.
5. It shall remain in the sole discretion of the individual trial court judge to determine whether any matter will be heard in-person or by video conference.
6. Bonded clients are required to participate in video hearings unless their presence has been waived by agreement of the parties or by the court.
7. Contested matters shall be scheduled by the court at specific times to ensure that the numbers of individuals present in the courtroom remains low and/or to facilitate video conferencing of the matter.
8. The parties should contact the Criminal Court Clerk to request that an agreed matter or contested matter be added to the docket.

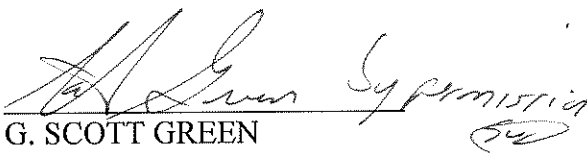
This order shall remain in effect until July 31, 2020. However, it may be revisited prior to

then in order to balance the competing needs of potential docket back logs and the safety of the community and court staff.

IT IS SO ORDERED, THIS THE 30th OF JUNE 2020:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
STEVEN W. SWORD  
CRIMINAL COURT, DIV. I

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KYLE A. HIXSON  
CRIMINAL COURT, DIV. II

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
G. SCOTT GREEN  
CRIMINAL COURT, DIV. III