

IN THE GENERAL SESSIONS COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE
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; and

WHEREAS, on November 17, 2020, the Tennessee Supreme Court issued an Order further extending ADM2020-00428;

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED AND DECREED:

1. Every effort shall be made to minimize in-court proceedings while respecting all Federal and State Constitutional rights of all parties.
2. Attorneys shall make every reasonable attempt to reach an agreement **prior to court**. For all General Sessions Division V/Civil agreements reached prior to court, the agreement should be emailed to the civil court clerk's office by 4 p.m. on the day prior to the scheduled civil court date. Agreed resets do not require judicial approval, however, all resets should comply with the caps as provided for every division's docket.
3. Any person who, for medical reasons, cannot wear a mask, must wear a face shield that completely covers their nose and mouth at all times.
4. In General Sessions Division III Felony **only**: attorneys who wish to be included on the TEAMS platform are encouraged to contact Esther Roberts at esther.roberts@knoxcounty.org to be added. NOTE: Felony hearings must be conducted in person in court.
5. Subject to availability, approval by the Public Building Authority, approval by the Knox County Mayor, and ongoing need due to the pandemic, Knox County General Sessions Division V Civil Court shall be held in the Main Assembly Room whenever feasible. Attorneys and General Sessions civil litigants are encouraged to check the Court Clerk's website at https://www.knoxcounty.org/circuit/civil_sessions_dockets.php to confirm their court date and location.

Per Curiam

Knox County General Sessions Court Judges

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KNOX COUNTY
CLERK OF COURT