

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

**IN RE: COVID-19 PANDEMIC**                    )  
  )  
**JUDICIARY SITTING EN BANC**            )       **GENERAL ORDER: 12/21/20**

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**GENERAL TEMPORARY ORDER SUSPENDING IN-PERSON HEARINGS**

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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 this order, effective immediately, suspending all in-person hearings through January 18, 2021. Cases that were scheduled for in-person hearings during this time will remain on the docket and may be heard via Teams. If a party does not consent to a video hearing, that party may request an in-person hearing from the court following the suspension period. The court retains the full discretion to determine whether cases will be heard via Teams or reset for an in-person hearing.

The video kiosks will remain in use at this time only for those attorneys and litigants who have no other way to participate in the proceedings on Teams. Attorneys and litigants are *strongly encouraged* to participate from outside the City-County Building using their personal devices. The courts will gladly accommodate attorneys who need to return to their offices from other obligations to log-in from their personal devices. This order in no way suggests that attorneys must have their clients in their offices to participate in court, although they may if they so choose. Many litigants currently join court from their own devices, and this practice is encouraged at this time.

This order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect through January 18, 2021, pending further order of the court.

It is so ORDERED, this the 21st of December, 2020.

PER CURIAM

Steven W. Sword, Div. I

Kyle A. Hixson, Div. II

G. Scott Green, Div. III