

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA, SITTING IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY

JILL L. SPITZER, COURT CLERK
1 2020
BY _____

Case No. AO-2020-10

FIFTH ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING COVID-19 STATE OF DISASTER

In conformance with the Fourth Emergency Joint Order Regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster, SCAD No. 2020-107 issued by the Supreme Court of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals on November 23, 2020 and Governor Kevin Stitt's Seventh Amended Executive Order 2020-20 issued on November 16, 2020, the undersigned Chief Judge for Washington County, **HEREBY ORDERS, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND UNTIL JANUARY 25, 2021** the following temporary orders, replacing Washington County District Court AO-2020-1, AO-2020-2, AO-2020-4, and AO-2020-6.

1. The District Court shall maintain limited office hours as follows:

Monday through Thursday - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Friday - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

District Court chambers are closed to attorneys and members of the public unless specifically authorized by a judge or bailiff. A minimum of one judge, but only one bailiff will be available to conduct court business during limited business hours, therefore emergency and urgent matters shall take priority. For matters needing immediate attention, call the bailiff at 918-337-2880 or 918-337-2885 to schedule a specific time to appear before a judge. Otherwise, all documents requiring a judge's attention or signature shall be left in the office of the Washington County Court Clerk; upon signature, the same shall be returned to the clerk's office for the attorney or pro se litigant to pick up.

2. All persons entering the Washington County Courthouse shall wear a mask at all times while inside the courthouse, including, but not limited to, courtrooms and common areas. Persons not wearing a mask shall not be allowed entry into the courthouse; those refusing to wear a mask at all times shall be required to immediately leave the courthouse.

3. DO NOT enter the courthouse if you are ill FOR ANY REASON or if you have COVID-19, or have been directly exposed to anyone with COVID-19, or have any symptoms such as fever, severe cough, or shortness of breath, have traveled to any country outside the U.S. in the past 14 days, and/or have lived with or have had close contact with any such persons, or are quarantining or isolating for any reason. Judges have full discretion to prevent those who appear to be ill or who fail to follow the guidelines from entering or remaining in any district court facility. Judges shall grant continuances requested for reasons related to public health and involving persons who are prohibited from appearing in court due to illness or exposure to COVID-19. A person subject to this restriction who is scheduled for a court appearance shall contact the court clerk (918-337-2870) or the bailiff (918-337-2880 or 918-337-2885) for a new court date.

4. Civil non-jury trials (including domestic cases) and other non-essential civil matters are continued until after mid-January 2021. Such matters currently set to be heard prior to mid-

January, 2021, shall be continued to the assigned judge's corresponding regular docket hearing after mid-January, 2021, unless specifically set by the judge assigned to the case.

5. Ex-Parte Emergency Protective Order hearings will be held as needed. Those persons in need of an Ex-Parte Emergency Protective Order shall contact Ray of Hope Advocacy Center at 918-337-6177 (24-hour hotline at 918-214-8886) or the Delaware Tribe at 918-337-6510 (24 hour hotline 918-337-7439) for assistance. All other protective order hearings shall be held as currently scheduled.

6. When feasible, remote participation in hearings i.e. telephone conference, Facetime, TEAMS, Skype, webinar-based platforms, video conferencing, or any other reasonable means allowed by law may be used. (Bluejeans.com can be used with the approval the Chief Justice. Zoom shall not be used on any State-issued device.) Attorneys or pro se litigants who want to utilize one of these methods must contact the bailiff for approval and details.

7. All permitted "in-person" proceedings shall be limited to the attorneys, litigants, witnesses, security officers, and other persons deemed necessary by the judge. No family members, friends, on-lookers, or the like shall be allowed in courtroom unless specifically authorized by the judge. Social distancing of at least six (6) feet between persons is required.

8. Matters that can be settled by agreement of the parties, even on a temporary basis, are encouraged. Such consent orders, decrees, documents shall be approved by signature of the attorneys and parties, then presented to the judge assigned to the case for approval and entry. Mandatory jurisdictional testimony can be given by an accompanying sworn affidavit.

9. Persons currently incarcerated in the Washington County jail shall be seen by video conferencing at the scheduled time as has been customary in the past (no change in policy). Beginning November 30, 2020, those persons who bond out of jail are ordered to appear before the Court as follows:

MISDEMEANORS: January 11, 2021 at 1:15 p.m. in Courtroom 3 on the 3rd floor.

TRAFFIC: January 11, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. in Courtroom 2B on the 2nd floor.

FELONIES: January 19, 2021 at 1:15 p.m. in Courtroom 3 on the 3rd floor.

MISCELLANEOUS: January 19, 2021 at 1:15 p.m. in Courtroom 3 on the 3rd floor.

FINES AND COSTS – FAILURE TO APPEAR WARRANTS: Contact Glenda Powell at 918-337-2773 for new court date or appear on January 22, 2021 in Courtroom 3 on the 3rd floor at 1:30 p.m. (last name begins with A - M) or 2:30 p.m. (last name begins N - Z).

10. Felony and misdemeanor dockets shall be held as currently scheduled, provided, however, only the defendant and his/her attorney are allowed in the courtroom.

11. The traffic docket shall be continued to January 11, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. in courtroom 2B.

12. Any docket not specifically addressed herein, including but not limited to Drug Court and Mental Health Court, shall be held as scheduled, unless specifically rescheduled by the judge.

13. Judges may, at his/her discretion, continue to use mail, fax, email, and drop off boxes for acceptance of written materials and correspondence with parties and attorneys, except for emergencies. Upon the approval of the judge assigned to the case, orders that require his/her signature may be submitted to the Washington County Court Clerk by mail, fax (918-337-2897), or by electronically means. Contact the Washington County Court Clerk (918-337-2870) for instructions on filing documents by electronic means. Regarding documents sent by fax or electronically, the original document(s) must be immediately mailed to the Washington County Court for filing at 420 S. Johnstone S. Johnstone, Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74003.

14. This Order does not extend any statute of limitations, pleading requirements, appeal time, or deadlines set by the assigned judge.

15. This Order is subject to extension or modification as necessary.

DONE THIS 30th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda A. Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

The Honorable Linda S. Thomas
Judge of the District Court