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Press Release

UPDATED TULSA COUNTY DISTRICT COURT PROCEDURES DUE TO INCREASE IN COVID-19 INFECTIONS IN TULSA COUNTY AND SURROUNDING AREAS.

Tulsa, Oklahoma December 2, 2020 Tulsa County District Court is announcing further changes in procedures due to the current increase in COVID-19 infections in Tulsa County and surrounding areas. Highlights of the Administrative Order:

1. Effective December 8, 2020, all in-person proceedings are suspended from December 8, 2020, through January 11, 2021. The only exceptions are emergency matters set by the assigned judge, or as otherwise authorized by this Order. The full Administrative Order is attached and will also be posted on the Court's website at <http://www.tulsacountydistrictcourt.org>.
2. All areas of the courthouse occupied by judges, judicial staff, court clerks working in judicial offices, as well as courtrooms, are closed to the public during this time period with exceptions for necessary and emergency matters. The courthouse itself remains open.
3. Jury trials will be suspended until February 1, 2021.
4. This Order does not apply to any proceedings in the Family Center for Juvenile Justice, only to the Tulsa County Courthouse at 500 South Denver.
5. In-custody arraignments / initial appearances, the daily bond docket, in custody dispositions, and other in custody criminal matters shall continue to be conducted remotely by video technology.
6. The updated procedures due to increase in Covid-19 infections in Tulsa County and surrounding areas, announced 11/18/2020, shall remain in full force and effect except as modified herein.

Please see the full Administrative Order for complete details.
Questions can be directed to the Court Administrator.

For Release December 2, 2020

IN THE DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR TULSA COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

RECEIVED

DEC 02 2020

DON NEWBERRY
COURT CLERK

AO-2020-5

AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER AO-2020-5 (PHASE 3)
RE: Temporary Modification

This Temporary Administrative Order amends and modifies Administrative Order No. AO-2020-5 (Phase 3) issued July 31, 2020; however, the terms, conditions and protocols therein remain in full force and effect until further order of the Court, except as modified herein.

The Associate and District Judges of Tulsa County met December 1, 2020 to consider SCAD No. 2020-107, issued by the Oklahoma Supreme Court and the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals on November 23, 2020. The Associate and District Judges considered the factors the appellate courts provided in Paragraph 3 of the SCAD for determining the steps necessary to protect the health and safety of all participants in any court proceeding. Those factors include the number of courthouse personnel who are currently under treatment and/or quarantine due to Covid-19, hospitalizations, the community rate of Covid-19 infections and any directives from state and county health departments. The Judges also considered the ongoing construction throughout the main courthouse that must be completed by December 30, which impacts our most heavily populated floors and courtrooms. They decided, by a majority vote, the following:

1. All in-person proceedings are suspended from December 8, 2020 through January 11, 2021. The only exceptions are emergency matters set by the assigned judge, or as otherwise authorized by this Order. All cases presently scheduled during this time period for in-person proceedings will be reset by separate order of the assigned judge. Any proceeding set via video conferencing during this time period is not affected by this Order. As per all prior orders and directives, judges continue to be encouraged to use remote participation to the extent possible by use of

telephone conferencing and video conferencing pursuant to Rule 34 of the Rules for District Courts;

2. Pursuant to the authority provided for in Paragraph 4 of SCAD No. 2020-107, all areas of the courthouse occupied by judges, judicial staff, court clerks working in judicial offices, as well as courtrooms, are closed to the public during this time period with exceptions for necessary and emergency matters;
3. Jury trials will be suspended until February 1, 2021;
4. In-custody arraignments / initial appearances, the daily bond docket, in custody dispositions, and other in custody criminal matters shall continue to be conducted remotely by video technology. No defendant shall be brought to the courthouse unless specifically ordered by the assigned judge. The implementation of these in custody matters will be handled by the criminal division, through its Chief Judge.
5. This Order does not apply to any proceedings in the Family Center for Juvenile Justice, only to the Tulsa County Courthouse at 500 South Denver. This is because most juvenile proceedings are currently conducted by video conferencing, there is no construction underway, and the Family Center has tremendous space to more than accommodate continuation of the FED/Small Claims docket per CDC guidelines during this brief time period. The FED/Small Claims docket is also not amenable to video conferencing as are many of the dockets at the courthouse.
6. The updated procedures due to increase in Covid-19 infections in Tulsa County and surrounding areas, dated 11/18/2020, shall remain in full force and effect except as modified herein. Those procedures are attached hereto as Exhibit "A".
7. This Order does not extend any statute of limitations, pleading requirements, or deadlines set by the assigned judge.
8. Judges available on telephone calls for emergencies, are as follows:

Kurt Glassco	918-596-5320	Probate, Trusts, and Non-DHS Adoptions
James Huber	918-596-5334	Family Division and emergency Child Custody Orders (non DHS)
James Keeley	918-596-8750	Guardianship Matters
Anthony Miller	918-596-5330	Emergency Guardianship Matters

William Hiddle	918-596-5494	Emergency Protective Orders
Kirsten Pace	Call provider or COPES 918-744-4800	Mental Health and Civil emergencies
David Guten	918-596-5366	Criminal/Bail Bond emergencies

Further, this Order is subject to extension or modification as necessitated by application of the relevant factors in SCAD No. 2020-107.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

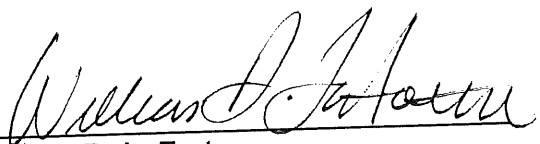

William D. LaFortune
Presiding Judge

EXHIBIT A

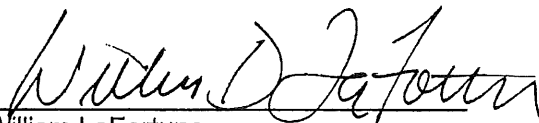
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL JUDGES AND JUDICIAL STAFF
FROM: PRESIDING JUDGE WILLIAM LAFORTUNE
SUBJECT: UPDATED PROCEDURES DUE TO INCREASE IN COVID-19
INFECTIONS IN TULSA COUNTY AND SURROUNDING AREAS
DATE: 11/18/2020

Due to an increase in Covid-19 infections in Tulsa County and surrounding areas the following modifications will be instituted:

1. Beginning November 25, 2020, jury trials will be suspended until January 11, 2021.
2. Beginning November 25, 2020 preliminary ISSUE hearings will be suspended until January 11, 2021. Preliminary hearing dockets may continue for the purpose of conducting waivers, dispositions, and other matters that can be accomplished without calling witnesses.
3. Beginning November 25, 2020 the Family Division will eliminate in-person hearings and trials where practicable until January 4, 2021.
4. Beginning immediately, out of custody misdemeanor cases will be continued until April 1, 2021 and thereafter as set by the Judge and clerks. This does not apply to DUI, Domestic Assault, or misdemeanors involving violence or threats of violence.
5. Bailiffs, as directed by the Court Administrator will monitor the hallways to avoid congestion and enforce social distancing (a more permanent plan will be developed in the upcoming days).
6. Judges are responsible for managing their courtroom and enforcing social distancing (6 feet) and masks on their respective dockets. Reducing the size of in-person dockets, scheduling dockets at different times of the day, and taking other pro-active measures are essential.

As we continue to balance the needs of those in the court system and the safety of everyone involved, we ask that everyone take responsibility and practice safety and social distancing.


William LaFortune
Presiding Judge