
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-14 RE: COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Further Suspension of Felony Jury Trials

RECITALS

The Governor of the State of Colorado has declared a state of emergency in response to the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus); and

There are over 400 presumptive positive and confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in the District and twelve reported deaths, and the State and local public health authorities have restricted the number of people in any public meeting, and

The Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice in an order issued March 16, 2020 (copy attached) suspended jury calls through April 3, 2020 except for criminal trials facing speedy trial deadlines, which has been extended to July 3, 2020 by Order of May 5, 2020, copy attached and further extended by his order dated June 15, 2020 extending the suspension to August 3, 2020, subject to waiver.

The Centers for Disease and Prevention, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and the County Departments of Public Health and Environment in the District have advised taking measures to slow the spread of the disease and precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the virus.

Felony jury trials, not only require twice as many jurors, but also require a larger jury pool and are generally multiple day or week trials.


It is hereby ordered as follows:

ORDER

1. The 7th Judicial District will submit a waiver for a very limited number of county court jury trials in July.
2. Effective July 6, 2020, all felony jury trials scheduled to commence now through July 31, 2020 before any district or county judge in any courthouse in the District are CONTINUED absent further order of the assigned judicial officer where the assigned judicial officer where finds that there are exigent circumstances which compel proceeding.
3. At the sole discretion of the presiding judicial officer other trials may require suspension or continuance as well to assure public health and safety.

Done this 23rd day of June, 2020.

BY THE COURT:


A. Steven Patrick, Chief Judge

XC: 7th JD Judges
7th JD Clerks of Court
w/enclosure