



ELEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
136 JUSTICE CENTER ROAD, ROOM 103
CANON CITY, COLORADO 81212

Chief Judge Order 20-03

Regarding Court Functions During the COVID-19 Pandemic

In light of the public health risk posed by the Novel Corona Virus and COVID-19 and the advisories and orders from the Centers for Disease Control, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and local public health departments, recommending active steps to slow the spread of the disease and precautions to reduce the risk of exposure, effective immediately the Courts of the 11th Judicial District will be operating with reduced staff and a focus on matters of immediate concern for public safety.

Pursuant to the authority granted in Chief Justice Directive 95-01 and Chief Justice Order Regarding COVID-19 and Operation of Colorado State Court dated March 16, 2020, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

Courthouses:

All courthouses will remain open. However, staff will be reduced, hours will be reduced and only those who have qualifying business in the courthouse will be allowed inside.

The Clerk of Court's office will be open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Jurors and Jury Trials:

All civil jury trials set before June 1, 2020, are vacated. Judges and parties should be in phone contact regarding rescheduling.

All Criminal trials set before April 3, 2020, are vacated unless the case is in imminent danger of being dismissed for speedy trial reasons. It is likely that criminal jury trials set during the month of April will also be vacated absent imminent danger of the case being dismissed for speedy trial reasons. Attorneys should prepare accordingly.

All or most jury calls for a return date between March 17, 2020, and April 3, 2020 have been cancelled. Any jurors receiving a summons for this time period and who contact the jury commissioner with COVID-19 concerns shall have their service postponed consistent with this Order. Any juror that appears on a summons during the above time period shall have their service postponed.

Jurors are subject to the provisions of Chief Justice Directive 20-01, issued contemporaneously with this Directive. Please contact the clerk of court for your county (contact information is below) if you have questions.

Case Types that May Be Heard:

The courts will continue to conduct hearings on public safety matters.

Public safety matters are limited to the following:

- Petitions for temporary civil protection orders and permanent protection order hearings;



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- Petitions for temporary emergency risk protection orders and hearings on emergency risk protection orders;
- Crim.P. Rule 5 advisement for incarcerated persons and the initial setting of bail;
- Revocation hearings on complaints to revoke probation involving an incarcerated defendant;
- Proceedings necessary to protect the constitutional rights of criminal defendants including bond-related matters and plea agreements for incarcerated individuals;
- Detention hearings for juvenile delinquency cases;
- Shelter hearings in dependency and neglect cases or other juvenile proceedings;
- Petitions for appointment of an emergency guardian and/or special conservator;
- Hearings on motions to restrict parenting time and parental abduction prevention;
- Emergency mental health proceedings;
- Other proceedings deemed necessary by the Chief Judge (in consultation with the presiding judicial officer) to prevent a substantial risk of imminent financial hardship, or imminent risk to the health, safety or welfare of an individual or members of the community.

When hearings are conducted for public safety matters, courts shall discourage in person participation and encourage and accommodate telephone and/or video appearance for all participants.

VISITORS TO THE COURTHOUSE WILL ONLY BE PERMITTED TO ENTER FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

To File:

- Petitions for temporary civil protection orders and permanent protection order hearings;
- Petitions for temporary emergency risk protection orders and hearings on emergency risk protection orders.
- Petitions for the appointment of an emergency guardian and/or special conservator;

Jurors:

- Jurors with a summons and instructions to report.

Participants:

to certain proceedings, to include attorneys, witnesses, victims, law enforcement and press:

- Criminal proceedings that have not previously been continued;
- Crim.P.Rule 5 advisement for incarcerated persons and the initial setting of bail;
- Revocation hearings on complaints to revoke probation involving an incarcerated defendant;



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- Proceedings necessary to protect the constitutional rights of criminal defendants including bond-related matters and plea agreements for incarcerated individuals;
- Detention hearings for juvenile delinquency cases;
- Shelter hearings in dependency and neglect cases or other juvenile proceedings;
- Hearings on motions to restrict parenting time and parental abduction prevention; and
- Emergency mental health proceedings.

If the case type is not criminal and is not one of the case types mentioned above, the case has been likely been continued. The clerk of court should be contacted to determine the next court date.

If the case is a criminal case, the clerk of court or the attorney on the case should be contacted to determine if the case has been continued or if a phone appearance has been ordered.

Gloves, Masks and other Preventative Measures:

Until further notice, the court will permit persons to wear surgical masks and gloves in court and probation buildings if they so desire. Persons may also bring small plastic containers of hand sanitizer into court and probation buildings.

COVID-19 Exposure:

If the aforementioned applies but a person with business at the Court has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or has been in contact with someone exposed to COVID-19 in the last 14 days the instructions below will be followed:

- Witnesses subpoenaed in a case, please do not enter the courthouse. Contact the attorney or party issuing the subpoena to explain the circumstances and discuss the options available.
- Jurors summoned to report for jury duty, please do not enter the courthouse. Submit a [postponement request](#) as soon as possible and we will reschedule your jury service.
- Participants to a case, please do not enter the courthouse. Contact the clerk of court or your attorney for further instructions.

Information:

Information regarding our operating status, including services available remotely, will be posted on our website.

https://www.courts.state.co.us/Courts/District/Index.cfm?District_ID=11

If you have general questions regarding a case or matter, please use the contact information below. For cases or questions:

Chaffee County Email dana.petri@judicial.state.co.us

fax# 719-539-6281 or call 719-539-2561

Custer County Email kaye.rocheleau@judicial.state.co.us

fax# 719-783-2995 or call 719-783-2274

Fremont County Email FremontCountyClerk@judicial.state.co.us

fax# 719-204-2275 or call 719-269-0100



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**Park County Email parkcountyclerk@judicial.state.co.us
fax# 719-836-2892 or call 719-836-2940**

- Those with a collection or payment matter can call (719) 269-0100 ext 2205 and leave a message, and someone will call you back.
- For Probationers - call your Probation Officer directly, email your Probation Officer at firstname.lastname@judicial.state.co.us or call Probation Department at:
 - Chaffee County 719-529-2855
 - Custer County 719-269-0155
 - Fremont County 719-269-0155
 - Park County- 719-836-2294 (Fairplay) 303-816-5981 (Bailey)

When leaving a message, please indicate the level of urgency of your situation. Due to a high volume of calls and emails, please allow 24 hours for a response.

This Order is in effect until further notice.

Done in Salida, Colorado, March 18, 2020

/s/ Patrick W. Murphy

Chief Judge, 11th J.D.