



STATE OF COLORADO
Fourteenth Judicial District

**AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUDGE 2020-04
COURT OPERATIONS UNDER COVID-19 ADVISORY**

The Governor of Colorado has declared a State of Emergency related to the presence of Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) and the President of the United States has declared a National Emergency due to COVID-19. Furthermore, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is working to stop the spread of COVID-19 and has implemented emergency measures as Colorado is experiencing COVID-19 transmission that threatens the health of residents and risks overwhelming the healthcare system in the State of Colorado. The Governor of the State of Colorado has now issued several Executive and Public Health Orders concerning the operation of businesses and personal pursuits for all Coloradans. Based on their analysis of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, experts in infectious diseases are opining that the outbreak in the United States will not begin to subside soon.

Due to the public health risk posed by COVID-19, the Centers for Disease Control and CDPHE are recommending active steps to slow the spread of the disease and precautions to reduce the risk of exposure. Therefore, the courts and probation department of the 14th Judicial District will be operating with reduced staff and will focus on matters of immediate concern for public safety. Other non-emergent matters may be deferred.

Pursuant to the authority granted in Chief Justice Directive 95-01 and in consideration of the Chief Justice's Orders Regarding COVID-19 and Operation of Colorado State Courts, as amended, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. Persons Who May Not Enter Court Related Facilities At Any Time: Persons who meet any of the below criteria are prohibited from entering these facilities and instead should call (970) 725-3357 (Grand), (970) 824-8254 (Moffat) or (970) 879-5020 (Routt) to reschedule their court date, request to appear by phone, or to receive further instructions:

- a. Anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and who is not virus-free;
- b. Anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the past 14 days;
- c. Anyone who is experiencing a fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, or any other symptoms of respiratory illness;
- d. Anyone who is experiencing or has been in direct contact with someone who is experiencing flu-like symptoms.

2. Operations: The courts and probation department will be open 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 pm., excepting weekends and legal holidays. The offices may also occasionally be closed to accommodate staff meetings. The number of employees who are physically present and

working at the court and probation offices, however, will be reduced as coordinated by the Court Executive, Chief Probation Officer, and Clerks of Court, with the approval of the Chief Judge. Every effort will also be made to facilitate work from remote locations using available technology, but due to the reduction in staffing levels, the processing of filings that are not related to public safety matters may likely be delayed.

Entry to court-related facilities by members of the public is by appointment only. Members of the public wishing to come to the court or probation offices must call the relevant number below:

Combined Courts

Grand County (970) 725-3357 ext. 7
Moffat County (970) 824-8254 ext. 7
Routt County (970) 879-5020 ext. 7

Probation

Grand County (970) 725-3495
Moffat County (970) 824-7304
Routt County (970) 879-1003

If at all possible, an alternative to entry to the court-related facility will be provided.

3. Filings: All court users are encouraged to only utilize electronic means for filing any document with the court. Fax numbers and email addresses for each court location are as follows:

Grand: email: grandclerk@judicial.state.co.us; fax: (970) 725-3216
Moffat: email: moffatclerk@judicial.state.co.us; fax: (970) 824-8923
Routt: email: routtclerk@judicial.state.co.us; fax: (970) 879-3531

4. Prior to appearing at the courthouse, all court users should call that court first for specific directions regarding appearances or filings. In-person filings at the justice center will **only** be accepted if they are filed by law enforcement (i.e., summons, affidavits for warrants, etc.) or pertain to an urgent public safety matter as described in section 5.b. below, and only if they cannot be submitted electronically. The court will accept electronic filings from attorneys only through CCE for case types in the CCE system. In cases that are not subject to e-filing, ONLY, attorneys and unrepresented parties may email pleadings to the above email addresses or deliver by U.S. Postal Service, for filing. Hearings related to non-public safety matters may be delayed pursuant to this order. All existing proceedings pursuant to Rule 120, evictions, foreclosures, and replevins have been stayed at this time, in accordance with Public Health directives requesting that no eviction proceedings occur at this time. Further, during pendency of recent Executive Orders from the Governor, the courts will not accept new filings for Forcible Entry and Detainer actions (eviction proceedings), unless the moving party can demonstrate that the matter falls within one of the exceptions in the Governor's Executive Order.

5. Continuances and Limitations on Hearings:

- a. The courts of the 14th Judicial District will attempt to conduct all hearings as scheduled, although some hearings may be continued. No jury trials will occur through at least July 6, 2020. Anyone who is scheduled to appear in court or any member of the public wishing to observe court hearings is directed to contact the clerk's office for information on appearing at any hearing by video or telephone. Personal appearances at the courthouse are strongly discouraged unless approved in advance by a judge or through the clerk's office.

b. The courts will continue to conduct prompt hearings on all public safety matters. Public safety matters are defined as follows:

- i. Petitions for temporary civil protection orders and permanent protection order hearings;
- ii. Petitions for temporary emergency risk protection orders and hearings on emergency risk protection orders
- iii. For incarcerated or detained persons, Crim.P. Rule 5 advisements, the initial setting of bail, bond-related hearings, plea hearings, sentencing hearings and other proceedings that must occur by a deadline imposed by statute;
- iv. Revocation hearings on complaints to revoke probation involving an incarcerated defendant or a juvenile;
- v. Detention hearings in juvenile delinquency cases;
- vi. Shelter hearings in dependency and neglect cases or other juvenile (JV) proceedings;
- vii. Petitions for appointment of an emergency guardian and/or special conservator;
- viii. Hearings on motions to restrict parenting time and parental abduction prevention;
- ix. Emergency mental health proceedings;
- x. Other proceedings deemed necessary by the presiding judge (in consultation with the Chief Judge) 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.

c. When hearings are conducted for public safety matters, courts shall conduct such proceedings by telephone and/or video appearance for all participants and observers if possible.

6. **Jury Calls:** No jury trials will occur before July 6, 2020. Jurors with a summons should visit our website at https://www.courts.state.co.us/Courts/District/Index.cfm?District_ID=14 or contact the jury commissioner for further information.
7. **Bond Return Dates:** New bond return dates, including ones that are determined by the Sheriff with regard to other jurisdictions in Colorado, shall be scheduled for no sooner than the week of June 15, 2020.
8. **Extrajudicial Activities:** The use of court related facilities for extrajudicial activities (e.g., the solemnization of marriages; meetings) is prohibited.
9. **Requests for Records:** Instructions with regard to making requests for records may be obtained by calling your local courthouse.

Circumstances have been changing rapidly and will likely continue to do so. The Chief Judge will continue to monitor available information and recommendations from health organizations and this order may be revised or extended, as deemed necessary. All are encouraged to regularly check the website for the Colorado Judicial Branch (www.courts.state.co.us) for the latest information, including the page that is specific to the 14th Judicial District.

SO ORDERED this 7th day of May, 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M.A. O'Hara, III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a distinct "A".

Michael A. O'Hara, III, Chief Judge