

KORY KIRKLAND
District Judge



MARY ALLEN
Bailiff

MALINDA L. ROY, CSR
Official District Court Reporter

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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GRADY COUNTY COURTROOM 1, GENERAL RULES AND PROCEDURES

(COVID 19 RE-OPENING)

Kory Kirkland, District Judge for Grady and Caddo County, hereby orders and approves the following temporary measures affecting the work of the District Judge's Court and Courtroom Procedures. The below rules and procedures apply to all persons and are not directed or limited to attorneys or pro se litigants. All persons are to comply with the below rules and procedures.

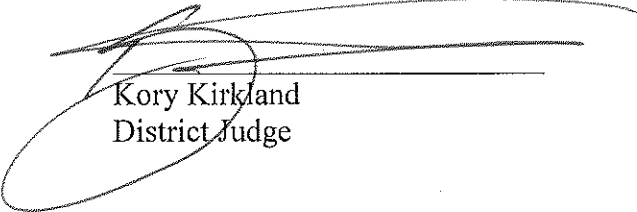
1. All hearings which were or have been suspended by virtue of the First, Second or Third Emergency Joint orders which were issued by the Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals regarding COVID-19, are to be rescheduled by the District Judge upon request by a party and / or on the first date available for the court and the parties.
2. The court shall continue to use discretion in granting a continuance when requested for reasons related to public health. The court will be particularly cognizant of persons who fall into one or more of the following categories.
 - a. Persons who have been diagnosed with or have had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with coronavirus;
 - b. Persons with apparent symptoms of coronavirus, such as fever, severe cough, or shortness of breath
 - c. Persons who have been asked to or are required to self-quarantine by a State Executive Order or by any doctor, hospital, board of health, or other medical provider or health agency, or who reside with anyone who has likewise been asked or required to self-quarantine and
 - d. Persons who have travelled to any other country, outside the United States within the last 14 days.

All attorneys and parties who may fall into any of these categories and who have cases on the court's docket are to call the Judge's chambers and request a new court date as necessary.

3. When possible, all hearings shall be conducted electronically through the use of “Blue Jeans” software. For any electronic hearing, the party or attorney(s) shall provide a list to the court of all participant email addresses for which invitations shall be sent. This list shall be submitted to the court’s bailiff, Mary Allen, at mary.allen@oscn.net. When possible, all exhibits shall be circulated by PDF, with originals to follow.
4. **CIVIL MOTION DOCKET:** Any hearing, in which all parties are represented by counsel, which is set on a civil motion docket, shall be conducted electronically in accordance with paragraph 3.
5. Any “appearance hearing,” including, but not limited to: confirmation of sheriff sale, hearing on default or hearing on assets, shall be conducted in person,
6. The following persons are prohibited from entering the courtroom
 - a. Persons who have been diagnosed with or have had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with coronavirus;
 - b. Persons with apparent symptoms of coronavirus, such as fever, severe cough, or shortness of breath
 - c. Persons who have been asked to or are required to self-quarantine by a State Executive Order or by any doctor, hospital, board of health, or other medical provider or health agency, or who reside with anyone who has likewise been asked or required to self-quarantine and
 - d. Persons who have travelled to any other country, outside the United States within the last 14 days.
7. **CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS:** Any party appearing in person for a criminal matter shall check in with security at the courthouse entrance, and shall not be admitted until that party’s case has been called.
8. The Court bailiff and / or courthouse security shall continue to inquire and persons attempting to gain access to the courtroom shall be required to orally give the following information upon request
 - a. Purpose for entry
 - b. Whether that person has traveled from any country outside the United States, or from any area within the United States with substantial community spread of COVID-19
 - c. Whether that person has been or had close contact with someone who has been asked to self-quarantine by any health care provider or public official.

- d. Whether that person has been or has been in close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19
 - e. Whether that person is presently experiencing the symptoms of an infectious respiratory illness, which includes fever, cough or shortness of breath.
9. All persons entering the courtroom shall wear a face covering / mask at all times.
 10. Until such time as public and health officials increase the “no more than 10 persons” rule to 50 or more, no more than ten (10) persons, including the Judge and all court personnel, shall be in the courtroom at any time, subject to necessary exceptions as the Judge deems necessary.
 11. All persons in the courtroom shall strive to maintain social distancing of at least six (6) feet or more. To this end, attorneys and / or litigants shall remain at counsel table or the witness seat during the course of the hearing. The litigants and attorneys shall utilize the lectern when questioning witnesses or making argument to the court. Further, any attorney or litigant needing to “approach” shall request such permission prior to approaching the Judge or court personnel.
 12. Individuals attempting to enter in violation of these protocols shall be denied entry. Individuals who refuse to follow these protocols shall be excluded from the hearing by the court bailiff or courthouse security.
 13. No person under the age of 18 shall enter the courtroom unless authorized by the Court.
 14. Until further Order, access to the Judge or court personnel is encouraged to be via phone, email or mail only. In the event “in-person” access is required, no more than two non-court personnel shall be permitted into the bailiff’s waiting area at any given time. No congregating in the bailiff’s waiting area shall be permitted. Any person attempting to enter in violation of these protocols shall be denied entry by a bailiff or courthouse security officer.

Dated this 11th day of May, 2020



Kory Kirkland
District Judge