

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

TEXAS COUNTY
FILED

14
MAY ~~13~~ 2020

M. RENEE ELLIS
COURT CLERK
BY ANNETT MRE Deputy

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING RE-OPENING OF COURTS

AO-2020- 1 - D

Now on this 14th day of May, 2020, Jon K. Parsley, the duly elected District Judge for the First Judicial District, State of Oklahoma enters the following Order regarding the re-opening of Courts in the First Judicial District from the closure occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic:

Oklahoma Governor J. Kevin Stitt issued Executive Order 2020-07 on March 15, 2020 declaring an emergency in all 77 Oklahoma Counties caused by the impending threat of COVID-19 to the people of the State. The Oklahoma Supreme Court and the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals issued various SCAD Orders regarding the pandemic. SCAD Order 2020-36 allows Courts to re-open after May 15, 2020. The Order specifically allows for District Courts to enter additional administrative orders where necessary.

Texas County has in the past week experienced an unusual growth in the number of COVID-19 infections. As of this writing, Texas County was 3rd in the State with 541 cases. Beaver County has 20 cases and Cimarron and Harper each have a case. The spike in the number of cases in this District necessitates that we wait to fully re-open the Courts to full public access.

All Courts in the First Judicial District will be open from May 18, 2020 to June 1, 2020 only with RESTRICTED ACCESS. The public must call the Court Clerk's office to obtain service. Filing by email, mail, and fax shall be encouraged. No in person hearings should occur before June 1, 2020 except for emergency matters as outlined in the various SCAD Orders. Persons entering will have temperature taken, be asked COVID-19 related questions, and must wear a mask.

Beginning June 1, 2020, in person hearings may resume with the following precautions to

protect public safety:

1. Masks should be worn by all persons on the floor and in the offices of the Court Clerks and in all Courtrooms in the First Judicial District.

2. Hearings should be scheduled to avoid large groups of people gathering. There should be no more than 10 persons in any room at any time. Parties should remain outside the Courthouse until the time of their hearings.

3. Extra cleaning of door handles and other often used surfaces should be employed.

4. Signs should be placed on the exterior doors to the Courthouse prohibiting entry for anyone who has been tested positive with COVID-19 or who has the most common symptoms which have been previously listed.

5. Social Distancing should be observed where possible. Every other chair should be taped off and every other pew in the public seating areas.

6. Only parties and other absolutely necessary persons are allowed to attend hearings. Those allowed in shall include all Court personnel, law enforcement officers, DHS workers, and OJA workers. Spectators are forbidden at this time. Signs should be placed on the exterior doors of the Courthouse to advise spectators not to enter. Only the person needing to pay the fine or obtain the marriage license or conduct other business with the Court Clerks or the Courts should enter the Courthouse. Absolutely no children should be in the Courthouse, except when specifically ordered by the Court.

7. Filings by mail, email and fax should still be encouraged.

8. All Judges may continue to conduct hearings by telephone conference or video conference under Rule 34 at their discretion.

9. Fines will be accepted by mail, online payments, and phone-in payments. Paying fines

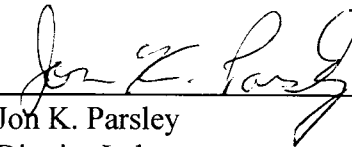
in person should be discouraged, but will be accepted.

Court Clerks may implement additional safety protocols at their discretion which will be enforced by the Court.

Associate District Judges may implement additional safety protocols at their discretion which will be enforced by the Court.

The District Judge will monitor the outbreak numbers and may well enter a new Order as we get closer to June 1, 2020 extending the time of RESTRICTED ACCESS if the numbers have not stabilized.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Jon K. Parsley
District Judge