

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-02 RE: COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

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 presumptive positive and confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in the District and State, and

Gunnison and San Miguel counties have restricted the number of people in any public meeting, and

Delta, Gunnison, Montrose and Telluride school districts have temporarily closed their public schools,

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,

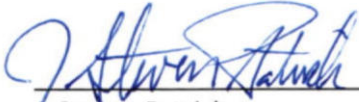
The Centers for Disease and Prevention, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and the County Departments of Public Health and Environment in the District have advised taking measures to slow the spread of the disease and precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the virus; it is hereby ordered as follows:

ORDER

1. Effective immediately, all civil, criminal petit, and grand jury selections and jury trials scheduled to commence now through May 1, 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 judge finds that there are speedy trial constraints or the assigned judicial officer finds exigent circumstances which compel proceeding.
2. The Court also provides notice to litigants, attorneys, and the public that the Court's judicial officers, to the extent practicable and at their discretion, will endeavor to reschedule hearings or to convert hearing to telephonic appearances in an effort to minimize the need for persons to travel to court, understanding that certain hearings may nevertheless require personal appearances. As many matters as possible shall be handled by telephone, but that determination shall be made by the presiding judicial officer.
3. If parties or counsel have questions, they should contact the judicial officer's staff by telephone or email.
4. The Courts of the District are presently open and continuing operations however, County Emergency Orders and the present health concerns have resulted in limited staff, limited public access to the clerk's office in most locations and require limited size of public gatherings, in at least some counties to no more than 10 people at one time. Accordingly, the focus must be on addressing issues with constitutional and other fundamental rights or involving public safety in the short term.
5. Social distancing shall be exercised in all courts as much as possible to minimize health concerns.

Done this 17th day of March, 2020.

BY THE COURT:



J. Steven Patrick
Chief Judge

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