

CHIEF JUDGE
Michael F. Powers, Marion
DISTRICT JUDGES
Courtney D. Boehm, Junction City
Steven L. Hornbaker, Junction City
Ryan W. Rosauer, Junction City
Benjamin J. Sexton, Abilene

DISTRICT MAGISTRATE JUDGES
Keith Collett, Abilene
Margaret White, Council Grove
Charles A. Zimmerman, Junction City

DISTRICT COURT ADMINISTRATOR
Nikki Davenport, Junction City



Nikki Davenport
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March 17, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Nikki Davenport
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**COURT REMAINS OPEN
CANCELLATION OF ALL JURY TRIALS THROUGH MAY 1, 2020**

Due to the recent outbreak of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) throughout the United States, and throughout the State of Kansas, Eighth Judicial District Chief Judge, Michael F. Powers has issued Administrative Orders 2020-7, 2020-8, and 2020-9. These orders are intended to modify some Court procedures, allowing the Court to provide essential functions while minimizing the spread of COVID-19.

All courthouses in the Eighth Judicial District (Dickinson, Geary, Marion and Morris Counties) remain open for business.

Copies of the Administrative Orders have been provided to all media outlets and may be viewed on our website. The orders address multiple issues:

- 2020-7 Guidelines for probation officers and those on probation
- 2020-8 All Jury Trials in March and April are continued. Establishes procedures for some hearings to take place, provides guideline for arrests and bonds.
- 2020-9 Puts limits on who may enter courtrooms and how long they may remain.

Persons who have symptoms of COVID-19, or have been exposed to COVID-19, should not enter the courthouse. Further Administrative Orders may be issued as the crisis continues to evolve and develop.

Updates and copies of the orders are available on the Eighth Judicial District website: www.8thjd.com

For more information, please contact Nikki Davenport, Court Administrator, at (785) 762-5221, ext. 1445.

**IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
STATE OF KANSAS
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020-7**

**Re: Order Regarding Court Services Officers and Reporting During COVID-19
Pandemic**

This order is being issued in response to the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Although for many this disease appears to cause only flu-like symptoms, but for others it can pose a serious risk.

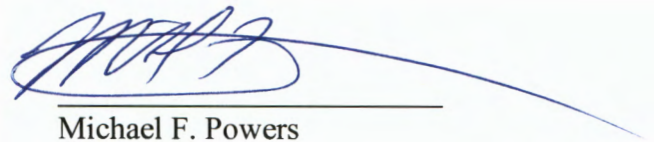
In February of this year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued “Interim Guidance” recommending that all employers consider how to best decrease the spread of COVID-19. On March 11, 2020, The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic. On March 12, 2020 Kansas Governor Laura Kelly declared a state of emergency to address this developing threat.

Given the significant number of identified and projected cases of COVID-19 across Kansas and the severity of risk proposed to the public, it is hereby ORDERED that effective March 16, 2020:

1. Staff in all 8th Judicial District Court Services offices will remain available for contact by mail and/or telephone.
2. Intakes from court will still be handled in person at the Court Services office, but will be brief.
3. Anyone directed to report to Court Services by the Court (for appointments, reports, or assessments) will report by phone or mail after the brief initial intake after court. No additional in person reporting will take place until further notice.

4. All DNA collection, UA / alcohol testing, and home visits are immediately suspended until further notice.
5. All CSO / Defendant-Respondent contact at the jail will be suspended until further notice unless the Court deems the contact an emergent necessity.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 16th day of March, 2020.



Michael F. Powers
Chief Judge
Eighth Judicial District

IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DICKINSON, GEARY, MARION AND MORRIS COUNTIES
STATE OF KANSAS
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020-8

Re: Modification of Court Operations during COVID-19 Pandemic

This order is issued in response to the national emergency created by the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and World Health Organization and the Declaration by Governor Laura Kelly of a state of emergency.

Within the Courts of the Eighth Judicial District, the following orders are effective immediately:

- 1) District Courts in Abilene, Junction City, Marion and Council Grove will remain open. Staff in the offices of the District Court Clerk will remain open for filings and contact by telephone.
- 2) Electronic filings will continue to be accepted and processed.
- 3) All Jury Trials scheduled through May 1, 2020, are continued. Assigned Judges will schedule each continued proceeding for a Status after May 1, 2020, at which time the Jury Trial may be rescheduled or continued as needed. Matters already set for Jury Trial May 1, 2020, or after, may be rescheduled to later dates in order to accommodate

rescheduling March and April trials. Speedy trial time will be tolled as court time.

When rescheduling, the Court's will give priority to criminal defendants in custody.

- 4) All non-essential Chapter 61 Limited Action hearings scheduled through May 1, 2020, shall be continued pending further order of the Court. Plaintiff's attorneys are required to obtain a new hearing date and properly notify defendants.
- 5) Motion Hearings, Divorces, Bench Trials and other proceeding not requiring large gatherings of people will take place as scheduled unless continued by the presiding judge.
- 6) Attorneys are encouraged to communicate in advance regarding uncontested matters (CINC Review Hearings, Scheduling and Status Conferences, First Appearances and Misdemeanor Arraignments – when the defendant has counsel). Hearings such as these can often be resolved by agreement, without appearance. The attorneys may then submit an agreed order to the Court.
- 7) Preliminary Hearings in criminal cases may be continued, or conducted, if the assigned judge deems the hearing necessary. If such hearings are held, they are to be scheduled separately and not in series, in order to limit grouping of parties or witnesses.
- 8) Other than as stated below, all criminal cases are to be initiated through a summons to appear on a date after May 1, 2020. Warrants may be issued for off grid felonies and non-drug person felonies.
- 9) All probable cause arrests shall require the arresting officer to provide the Court with an electronic probable cause affidavit within 48 hours. Other than cases involving felonies, domestic violence or where the defendant poses a threat to flee or be a danger

to the community, the responding judge is to release the defendant on an Own Recognizance (OR) bond with an appearance date after May 1, 2020.

In accordance with K.S.A. 22-2902(2), the Court finds good cause to continue all preliminary hearings in new felony cases beyond the normally required 14 days after arrest. Preliminary hearings will be set as soon as possible after May 1, 2020.

10) With exception of DUI's and Fleeing and Eluding cases, all Traffic misdemeanors are to be treated like infractions. The involved Law Enforcement Officer is to issue a Citation and Order to Appear. The Court will provide appearance dates after May 1, 2020.

11) All other proceedings including Care and Treatment, Child in Need of Care (CINC), First Appearances, and others as determined necessary for public safety by the assigned Judge, will be scheduled separately and not in series.

12) From the execution date of this order to May 1, 2020, Judges shall exercise caution in scheduling cases. The default position should be to continue all matters likely to require the presence of more than a very few persons.

13) This Order will be revisited on or before April 27, 2020, to determine whether these orders should be extended.

14) The Court recognizes these orders will negatively impact many. The action is taken in light of the national emergency and need to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Whether trials and other proceedings resume May 1, 2020, or at a later date, Court calendars will be very crowded for a significant period of time. Judges, probation

officers, and court staff will work with attorneys, litigants, jurors and the public to lessen inconvenience as much as possible.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THIS 17th day of March, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. F. Powers", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael F. Powers
Chief Judge

IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DICKINSON, GEARY, MARION AND MORRIS COUNTIES
STATE OF KANSAS
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020-9

Until further order of the Court, due to information released by various local, state and federal agencies monitoring the status of the COVID-19 virus, and the continuing development for concerns as efforts to contain the spread of the virus are released, the following administrative order is hereby entered.

No person shall be permitted to enter any courtroom, or hallway adjacent to any courtroom, unless that person is an attorney representing a party, a party or a person under subpoena as a witness for a case scheduled for hearing in this district. Any person permitted to enter under this order may not do so sooner than 30 minutes prior to the time for which their case is scheduled and may not remain for more than 15 minutes after their hearing is concluded, or the testimony for which they were subpoenaed to appear has been completed.

Those entering court areas of the building to use the public access computer, make court payments, or otherwise conduct business with the Court, may do so. However, they must complete their work in a prompt fashion and leave immediately thereafter.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 17th day of March, 2020.



Michael F. Powers
Chief Judge