

FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020-14

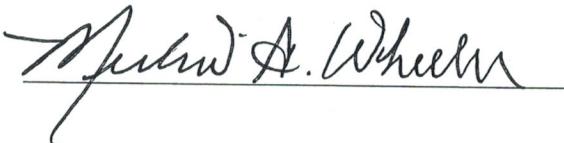
MARCH 17, 2020

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY and 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 concern as the efforts to contain the virus are released, the following Administrative Order is entered:

1. 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 either county of this district. Any person permitted to enter under this order may not do so sooner than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled hearing time and may not remain for more than 15 minutes after conclusion of the hearing or testimony for which they were subpoenaed to appear.
2. Parties appearing for marriage ceremonies or appearing for an adoption may not have more than 5 additional family and friends accompany them to the courtroom.
3. Only counsel of record and parties shall remain in a courtroom during the pendency of any hearing without express permission of the Court.
4. In docket call situations only personnel for one case at a time may be present in a courtroom. Counsel, parties and witnesses for subsequent cases should wait in waiting areas until called.
5. Counsel shall not enter any court office area without advance permission of the court and shall do so using only the designated entry door. Counsel are expected to observe all signage and posted directions.

6. Counsel are responsible for the conduct of themselves, their clients and any subpoenaed witnesses and shall conduct screenings, **in advance of arrival at court**, to determine if any client or witness is subject to exclusion due to exhibition of symptoms of COVID-19 are exhibited, if they have been exposed to the virus, or are subject to the Kansas Department of Health's recommendations for quarantine and isolation of travelers.
7. Media representatives seeking access to court proceedings are directed to contact the Court Administrator and Public Information Officer, Ruth Wheeler, for guidance and directions. Access to courtrooms will be at the discretion of the assigned judge.
8. No tours, events, or use of the Jury Assembly Room or any other court area shall be scheduled pending further order.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Merlin G. Wheeler", is written over a horizontal line.

Merlin G. Wheeler, Chief Judge.