

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF BERNALILLO
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

FILED IN MY OFFICE
2ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
BERNALILLO COUNTY, NM
CLERK OF THE COURT
3/18/2020 1:56 PM
Leanne LeCompte

IN THE MATTER OF:
PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES
FOR COURT OPERATIONS IN THE
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC
HEALTH EMERGENCY

MISC. NO. D-202-MS-A-1211

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

THIS MATTER came before the Court in response to the recent outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the well-documented concerns surrounding it. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the spread of COVID-19 is a pandemic. On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency and, on March 11, 2020, the Governor of the State of New Mexico declared a state of public health emergency, similar to declarations issued by other governors.

Numerous courts across the country, including the United States Supreme Court, have taken proactive measures to combat the spread of COVID-19. On March 17, 2020, the New Mexico Supreme Court issued Orders No. 20-8500-002 and No. 20-8500-003 regarding precautionary measures being taken by the judiciary during this time and addressing out-of-state travel by judicial officers and employees.

Accordingly, in order to protect public health, with the goal of reducing the size of public gatherings while balancing the fair administration of justice, the Court **ORDERS** the following protective measures effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020:

1. All civil jury trials in the Second Judicial District Court that have not yet commenced shall be suspended until April 30, 2020. Civil jury trials shall be rescheduled at a later date by the assigned Judge at their discretion pending further Order of the Court. The Court may issue other orders concerning future continuances as necessary and appropriate.
2. All criminal jury trials in the Second Judicial District Court that have not yet commenced shall be suspended until April 30, 2020, subject to the individual discretion of the judge presiding in such cases to go forward with a jury trial, upon motion of a party, to avoid serious harm to the interests of the litigants or for other exceptional circumstances, or without motion of a party upon approval of the chief judge and in consultation with the Chief Justice.
3. Individual judges, in their discretion, may vacate and reschedule trial-specific deadlines in civil, criminal, family, domestic violence and children's court cases, as circumstances dictate.
4. All trials not suspended under Supreme Court Order No.20-8500-002 or this Order, all hearings, and other court-organized gatherings of any type shall be held in a manner that limits the gathering of individuals in a single, connected location within a courthouse or other building to no more than twenty-five (25) people, or to a lesser amount if necessitated by the specific location, to facilitate appropriate social-distancing as recommended by public health authorities.
5. All grand jury proceedings in the Second Judicial District Court will convene subject to the Supreme Court's precautionary measures and any directives from the Chief Judge of the Second Judicial District Court.

6. The gathering of potential jurors for orientation and jury selection shall be conducted in a manner that limits the gathering of individuals in a single, connected location within a courthouse or other building to no more than twenty-five (25) people, or to a lesser amount if necessitated by the location, to facilitate appropriate social-distancing as recommended by public health authorities.
7. The Clerk's Office, Second Judicial District Court Judicial Supervision and Diversion Program (Pretrial Services), and all other Court services, shall remain open and shall continue to operate under regular business hours.
8. The Second Judicial District Court's website will be regularly updated with information and hours of operation. The public can contact the following numbers with questions regarding specific cases:
 - A. Clerk's Office, Information Desk at (505) 841-8400, (505) 841-7571
 - B. Civil Division, at (505) 841-7451
 - C. Family Division, at (505) 841-7421
 - D. Domestic Violence Division, at (505) 841-6737
 - E. Child Support Division, at (505) 841-6747
 - F. Criminal Division, at (505) 841-7444
 - G. Children's Court, at (505) 841-5906

The Court's website is: <https://seconddistrictcourt.nmcourts.gov/> information and emails can be sent to albdwebmstr@nmcourts.gov.

9. This Administrative Order will be amended in light of developing circumstances as necessary.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 18th day of March, 2020.



Hon Stan Whitaker
Chief District Court Judge