## Information on COVID-19 and Court Operations

## Revised 04/20/2020

The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma continues to closely monitor the national, state, and local responses to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and will be following guidance provided by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts (AO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state and local health officials. **Court operations within the Western District of Oklahoma are currently governed by** <u>6.0. 20-11</u>, <u>20-9.1</u>, <u>20-7</u>, and <u>20-5</u>. We are currently in Phase II of the protocols detailed in the **addendum to** <u>6.0. 20-5</u>. We will continue to post updates to general court operations to this website.

- In light of the recent CDC guidance recommending cloth face coverings, visitors to the Courthouse will be permitted to wear cloth face coverings when entering and moving about the Courthouse. In addition, face coverings can be worn in the courtroom during hearings, but must be removed when addressing the Court so the record will be clear. Visitors must also remove face coverings upon request by a Deputy U.S. Marshal or Court Security Officer for identification or security purposes. (Added 04/08/202)
- Persons entering the Courthouse may also wear latex or vinyl gloves when in the Courthouse, including in the courtroom. Physical distancing will still be mandated except when conferring with clients. (Added 04/08/2020)
- The Clerk's Office continues to be open to the public. In addition, staff are available by phone during
  regular business hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Please attempt to conduct
  your business by phone, if possible, before traveling to the courthouse. For assistance, call the
  helpdesk at 405-609-5555; the toll free number is 888-609-6593.
- The Court's electronic filing system (CM/ECF) continues to be available 24/7 for all registered users. If you experience an issue with filing, please call the helpdesk numbers above.
- Non-electronic documents and payments may be brought to the Clerk's Office or placed in the drop box located in the lobby of the William J. Holloway, Jr. United States Courthouse, 200 NW 4th Street in Oklahoma City. No cash payments may be placed in the drop box.
- Documents and payments may also be sent by U.S. postal mail or express delivery addressed to: Court Clerk's Office, 200 NW 4th Street, **Room 1210**, Oklahoma City, OK 73102.
- All grand jury sessions and jury trials are postponed until after June 1, 2020. <u>G.O. 20-10</u>.

- Most civil hearings will be telephonic. Please check with chambers of the assigned judge for information.
- Some criminal proceedings, including initial appearances, will be held at the courthouse or via video teleconferencing as appropriate. Courthouse access will be limited to those attending an in-person hearing.
- In-person proceedings are suspended until May 11, 2020 for persons detained at the Grady County Law Enforcement Center. <u>G.O. 20-4.1</u>. (Added 4/20/2020)
- Archival records requests are suspended as the Federal Records Center is currently closed.