



Supreme Court State of Tennessee

CHIEF JUSTICE
JEFFREY S. BIVINS

JUSTICES
CORNELIA A. CLARK
SHARON G. LEE
HOLLY KIRBY
ROGER A. PAGE

401 SEVENTH AVENUE NORTH
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
37219

MEMORANDUM

TO: Judge Roy, presiding judge 26th judicial district

DATE: April 30, 2020

RE: 26th Judicial District Re-Opening Plan

On April 27, 2020, the Tennessee Supreme Court received the 26th Judicial District Re-Opening Plan. Please address the following areas and submit a revised plan:

- (1) The number of persons in any courtroom at any one time should be limited to 10, plus the judge, court personnel, and court security.
- (2) Please provide more detail on admission to the various buildings and what screening will take place.
- (3) Please provide more detail on the handling of witnesses, particularly social distancing outside the courtroom.
- (4) Please specifically address the staggering of start times for larger dockets.
- (5) The plan addresses face masks and gloves for bailiffs. What about other court personnel?

The review of other plans previously approved should be very helpful in revising this one.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rachel Harmon
FROM: Judge Roy B. Morgan, Jr.
RE: Master Plan for the 26th Judicial District Courts
DATE: April 29, 2020

MASTER PLAN FOR ALL COURTS IN THE 26TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Pursuant to Supreme Court Order #ADM2020-00428, the Presiding Judge of the 26th Judicial District, along with the cooperation of all Judges, submits the following Master Plan for approval:

- A. All Courts will conduct as much business as possible by means other than In-Person Court Proceedings.
- B. Best effort will be made to conduct Circuit Court, Chancery Court, General Sessions Court, Juvenile Court and Municipal Court in a safe environment to minimize risk from In-Person Court proceedings, including the following:
 - 1. No Jury Trials to be held until after July 3, 2020.
 - 2. Court Security (Sheriff Departments and Municipal Court Personnel) shall establish screening measures to be used for entry into Court Buildings, which may include temperature checks and questioning.
 - 3. No spectators are permitted.
 - 4. Attorneys remain at Counsel Table with client, at a minimum of 6 feet apart.
 - 5. If more than one (1) attorney and one (1) client, then the front row of the audience section may be utilized.
 - 6. Witnesses are to remain outside Courtroom and Social Distance, as directed by security.
 - 7. Witnesses should be excused from the building as soon as possible.

- 8. During Court Proceedings, every effort should be made to enforce social distancing with a maximum of ten (10) persons present at any one time. Where Courtrooms are sizable and social distancing is followed, along with all other guidelines, the maximum of ten (10) may need to be exceeded on a limited basis.**
- 9. Judges will make every effort to schedule Court to avoid overcrowding. In criminal cases, Judge will limit contact between defendants in custody and those out on bond.**
- 10. Court Security will furnish hand sanitizer at convenient locations for all involved to utilize.**
- 11. Bailiffs will be gloved and masked.**
- 12. Masks are suggested for all who appear, however, this may be unrealistic due to short supply.**
- 13. Bailiff and all security staff are responsible for strict enforcement of the rules and seeing that all areas are properly sanitized.**
- 14. Since each Courtroom and docket are different, a Judge may suggest additional guidelines to minimize risk at In-Person Court Proceedings.**