

**IN THE CRIMINAL COURTS OF CARTER, JOHNSON,
UNICOI AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES,
FOR THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE**

**IN RE: COVID-19 PANDEMIC
SCHEDULING AND PROTOCOL
FOR THE CRIMINAL COURTS**

ORDER SUSPENDING IN PERSON COURT PROCEEDINGS

In response to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic and the necessary public health considerations for the citizens, litigants, witnesses, attorneys and court personnel, as mandated by the Order of the Supreme Court of Tennessee (No. ADM-2020-00428 dated March 13, 2020), it is hereby ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED as follows:

- 1. The above referenced Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court is adopted as the Order of the Criminal Courts of the First Judicial District and incorporated herein by attachment, as if fully set forth verbatim herein.**
- 2. All in-person proceedings before the Criminal Courts of the First Judicial District are suspended from March 16, 2020, until opening of Court on April 1,**

2020, with the exceptions referenced in the attached Order from the Tennessee Supreme Court.

- 3. The Criminal Court judges will appear per the regular Court schedule in each county, with the exception of jury trial dates, which will be rescheduled after due communication with counsel of record and the Office of the District Attorney General.**
- 4. On all dates scheduled for Criminal Court in this District, a notice will be clearly and visibly posted by the Clerk of the Criminal Court for each County advising all defendants who are not incarcerated appearing on that Court's docket, the date of the next scheduled appearance and the consequences of failing to appear on the date provided in the Notice. A template of the Notice has been provided to all Court Clerks in the District for their use. Counsel, parties and witnesses for those rescheduled cases should not appear in Court until the next scheduled date per the Notice.**
- 5. NO spectators will be permitted entry into any Criminal Courtroom pending courts resuming regular operations on April 1, 2020.**
- 6. All representatives of media should direct inquiries regarding permission to attend any hearings during this period to the Judge scheduled for that hearing.**
- 7. Hearings will be limited to arraignments, appointment of counsel and bond motions for incarcerated defendants on the regularly scheduled dates for their**

- appearance. Pleas on violation of probation warrants or new charges will be accepted ONLY if the resolution provides for the defendant to be released from jail prior to April 1, 2020. No other matters will be addressed by the Criminal Court Judges during the pertinent period. NO other inmates will be transported to Court on these dates and their next scheduled date for Court will be consistent with the date posted on the exterior of the Courthouse.**
- 8. Appointed or retained counsel or the staff of the Public Defender assigned to these individuals should be present in Court on these dates. Staff of the District Attorney General Should be present on these dates.**
- 9. To the extent possible, with the availability or limitations of technology in each county, all proceedings will be completed electronically or by video. To comply with necessary constitutional requirements, some arraignments, appointment of counsel and bond motions will be in open Court. All pleas will be conducted in open Court.**
- 10. Necessary Court personnel, counsel of record, assistant district attorneys general, court reporters and witnesses approved by the Court, if necessary, will be the only persons permitted to attend any Criminal Court proceedings during the pertinent period.**

- 11. To reschedule any motions, trials or appearances set during the pertinent period, attorneys should not appear in person in Court. Counsel of record should contact the office of the Judge presiding over the case by phone or email to reschedule these matters.**
- 12. The Court Clerks will be available during this period to receive filings in all counties. However, all counsel and pro-se defendant are encouraged to file any motions, notices or other pleadings electronically, by facsimile transmission or, if possible, by dropbox.**
- 13. Any other scheduling matters, appearance questions or issues concerning compliance with this Order and the attached Order of the Supreme Court of Tennessee should be directed to the office of the Judge presiding over your particular case or to the office of the presiding Judge, Lisa D. Rice, at (423)518-1062 or my email at lisa.young@tncourts.gov or judge.lisa.rice@tncourts.gov.**
- 14. Ex Parte Orders of Protection issued during the pertinent period (March 13, 2020 – March 31, 2020) are automatically extended until April 6, 2020, and are subject to enforcement during this period.**

Enter this the _____ day of March, 2020.

**HONORABLE LISA D. RICE
CRIMINAL COURT JUDGE,
PART I
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**HONORABLE STACY L. STREET
CRIMINAL COURT JUDGE,
PART II
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT**