

To: Tennessee Supreme Court – Chief Justice Bivins
Rachel Harmon, General Counsel, Administrative Office of the Courts

From: Chancellor Jerri S. Bryant, Presiding Judge, 10th Judicial District

IN THE TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

UPDATED PLAN FOR GENERAL SESSIONS / JUVENILE COURTS

The following protocol shall be applicable to all proceedings in the General Sessions Courts and Juvenile Courts in McMinn County, Monroe County and Polk County. The courts will continue to use video-conferencing to conduct as much business as possible by means other than in-person court proceedings.

At the discretion of the Court and on a strictly scheduled basis, some in-person hearings may be conducted for individuals who are not incarcerated concerning motion hearings, hearings on violations of probation, preliminary hearings, sentencing, and trials concerning civil or juvenile matters. Bench trials for in-custody defendants may be conducted on a scheduled basis following the protocols for persons permitted in the courtroom.

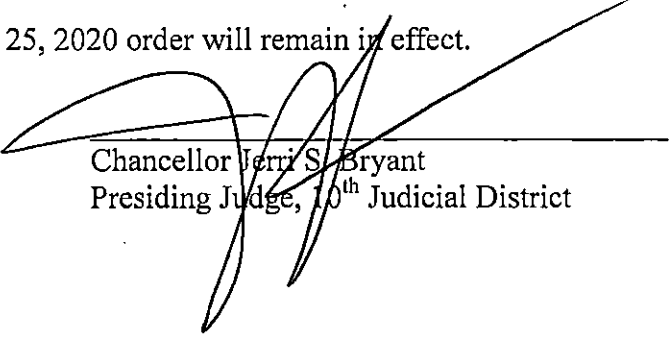
For all persons permitted in the courtroom for an in-person proceeding the following protocol shall apply:

- a. A maximum number of people in the courtroom at one time shall be limited to ten (10) lawyers and/or litigants.
- b. No extraneous persons will be permitted into the courtroom. Victims, witnesses, and parties will be permitted into the courtroom only for their case. The attorneys will be responsible for notifying them when they can enter the building.
- c. All in-person hearings will be on a scheduled basis with notice to court security.
- d. The courtroom and public areas will be sanitized between all in-person appearances and/or hearings.
- e. Participants will be encouraged to wear masks. Masks will be required if one approaches another within a distance of 6 feet; gloves will be required if one touches an exhibit or pleadings, or, in the alternative, each individual shall apply hand sanitizer before and after touching an exhibit or pleading.

At the discretion of the Court, cases pertaining to parties who are not incarcerated may be scheduled for status hearings, plea or assignment hearings, or review of the conditions of bond. These hearings may be conducted using video-conferencing. Matters rescheduled will be by agreed order and signed by the defendant to prove notice.

The General Sessions and Juvenile Courts covered by this section may individually implement measures that are more restrictive than those set out herein. However, no General Sessions or Juvenile Court shall permit any actions that exceed the requirements as mandated by this section or the section for General Procedures Applicable to all Courts of the Order for the 10th Judicial District as previously approved by the Supreme Court of Tennessee on May 7, 2020.

All other aspects of the March 25, 2020 order will remain in effect.



Chancellor Terri S. Bryant
Presiding Judge, 10th Judicial District