

FILED  
BY MIKE HAMMOND

IN THE CRIMINAL COURT FOR THE SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF  
TENNESSEE

KNOX COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT  
KNOXVILLE, TN

IN RE:  
COVID-19 PANDEMIC

FILED  
BY MIKE HAMMOND

MAY 18 2021

KNOX COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT  
KNOXVILLE, TN

GENERAL ORDER: 5/18/21

JUDICIARY SITTING EN BANC

GENERAL TEMPORARY ORDER REGARDING CRIMINAL COURT  
DOCKETS

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Tennessee Supreme Court Order of May 14, 2021 Modifying Capacity, Distancing, and Facial Covering Requirements, the Criminal Court Judges of the Sixth Judicial District sitting en banc do hereby enter the following order modifying the Court's previous General Temporary Order of December 21, 2020:

1. The Court will follow current Center for Disease Control guidance concerning the wearing of facial coverings. At this time, that guidance permits those individuals who have been fully vaccinated from wearing masks. All other individuals over the age of 13 are encouraged to wear masks.
2. Social distancing inside the courtrooms and jury waiting areas will be reduced to three feet. Judges may limit the total number of individuals inside courtrooms at their discretion.
3. In light of the Tennessee Supreme Court's preference for the continued use of alternatives to in-person hearings, all hearings involving inmates will be conducted through the use of video via Microsoft Teams or Zoom. This will not apply to jury trials. Upon the request of either party, the court will

consider in-person exceptions on a case-by-case basis. Requests for an in-person hearing must be made no later than 48 hours prior to the hearing.

Preference will be given for matters involving sworn testimony.

4. Due to the size of Criminal Court Divisions I and II, those court rooms will be open for all bonded matters. The kiosks will be removed. Microsoft Teams will be in use in the courtroom for those joining by video. Unless otherwise specifically ordered by the court, the parties may choose to appear by video or in-person.
5. Due to the limited space in the Division III courtroom, Division III will continue to handle bonded matters by video, unless otherwise directed. The kiosk for Division III will continue to be used inside the courtroom.

This order shall remain in effect until further order of the Court., 2020.

IT IS SO ORDERED, THIS THE 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY 2021:



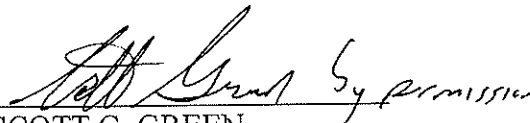
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STEVEN W. SWORD  
CRIMINAL COURT, DIV. I



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KYLE HIXSON  
CRIMINAL COURT, DIV. II



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SCOTT G. GREEN  
CRIMINAL COURT, DIV. III