

FILED

MAR 16 2020

PATRICK KEANEY  
Clerk, U.S. District Court

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS  
ON VISITORS TO COURTHOUSE

)  
) General Order No. 20-5

GENERAL ORDER

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma is closely monitoring the evolving circumstances presented by the outbreak of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19. On March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a National Emergency in response to COVID-19, which the World Health Organization has declared a pandemic. On March 15, 2020, the Governor of the State of Oklahoma declared a public health emergency throughout the State. The U.S. Center for Disease Control has advised people to take precautions in light of the COVID-19 virus outbreak and recommends social distancing to reduce exposure and slow the spread of COVID-19.

With the exception of all jury trials, grand jury sessions, and naturalization ceremonies scheduled over the next thirty days (see General Order 20-6), conditions in the Eastern District do not warrant cessation of court operations at this time. Elevated caution, however, is warranted to protect parties, practitioners, witnesses, court staff, and others who regularly visit the courthouse. Effective immediately, the following persons shall not enter the Ed Edmondson Federal Courthouse:

- Persons who have traveled to any foreign country within the last 14 days;
- Persons who reside or have had close contact with someone who has travelled to any foreign country within the last 14 days;
- Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital or health agency;
- Persons who have been diagnosed with, or have had contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19; and
- Persons with apparent symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, severe cough, or shortness of breath.

Anyone attempting to enter in violation of these protocols will be denied entry by a Court Security Officer or Deputy United States Marshal.

Any attorney or party shall promptly notify opposing counsel and the Court if they reasonably suspect that a participant in any scheduled hearing, conference, or other proceeding at the courthouse may come within any of the categories listed above. To the extent possible, counsel shall affirmatively inquire of their clients and witnesses whether they come within any of these categories.

If you are scheduled or required to appear at the courthouse and are denied access or otherwise unable to attend because of the restrictions in this Order, you are directed to proceed as follows:

- If you are represented by an attorney, please contact your attorney;
- If you are an attorney and you are scheduled to appear in court before a judge, please contact the chambers of the presiding judge;
- If you are scheduled to meet with a Pretrial Services Officer or a Probation Officer, please contact the Probation Office at (918) 684-7970;
- For Bankruptcy Court matters, please contact the Bankruptcy Clerk's Office at (918) 549-7200;
- For Section 341 Meetings of Creditors, please contact the U.S. Trustee's Office at (918) 581-6670;
- For other District Court matters, please contact the Clerk's Office of the U.S. District Court at (918) 684-7920.

It is so ordered this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.



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RONALD A. WHITE  
CHIEF JUDGE, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT