



CT COURT OF DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEBRASKA

IN THE MATTER OF
THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COURT

MS 21-66

**MISCELLANEOUS
ORDER RESUMING CIVIL JURY
TRIALS AND PERMITTING JURY
SELECTION FOR ALL IC FELONY
CASES AND ALL LESSOR OFENSES
IN COURTROOMS**

#36 FILED
IN DISTRICT COURT
DOUGLAS COUNTY NEBRASKA
MAY 14 2021
JOHN M. FRIEND
CLERK DISTRICT COURT

On Dec. 11, 2020, the Court, after consultation with the Nebraska Supreme Court and the Douglas County Health Department, entered order MS 20-110 continuing all scheduled jury trials between January 4, 2021, through February 28, 2021, due to COVID-19 restrictions. On January 29, 2021, the Fourth Judicial District Court entered orders MS 21-5 & 21-6 Fourth Amended Trial Orders. The Fourth Judicial District Court found that in consideration of the constitutional and statutory right to a speedy trial enjoyed by citizens accused in criminal cases, and due to ongoing restrictions created by the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic, that all jury panels starting March 2021 were reinstated solely for criminal cases. All civil cases were continued to a later date.

After further consultation with the Dr. Adi Pour, Ph.D., Director, Douglas County Health Department, regarding current Douglas County COVID-19 pandemic information including vaccine statistics, current COVID-19 guidelines and health recommendations, the following is effective immediately:

1. On July 6, 2021, the District Court shall resume the traditional scheduling of civil and criminal jury trials.
2. Jury selection for civil jury trials and criminal jury trials on class IC felony or lower offenses will resume in the courtrooms. It is highly recommended that jury selection for

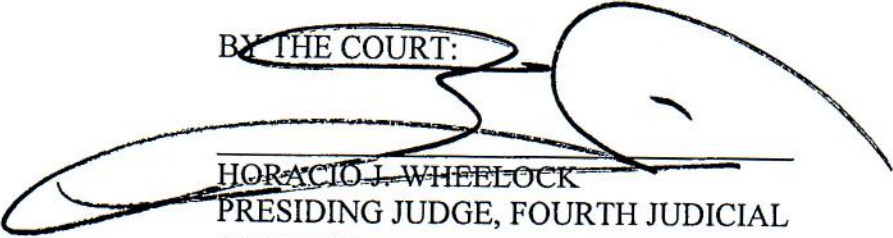
criminal jury trials on class IB and higher offenses continue to occur in the Legislative Chambers or the Douglas County Court Annex and that the prospective jurors be socially distanced and wear masks. Jury trials on these offenses shall resume in the courtrooms.

3. When scheduling civil jury trials, Judges shall take into consideration Neb. Rev. Stat. § 29-1205 which provides that to “effectuate the right of the accused to a speedy trial and the interest of the public in prompt disposition of criminal cases, insofar as is practicable: (1) The trial of criminal cases shall be given preference over civil cases.” Id.

IT IS SO ORDERED

DATED this 14th day of May, 2021.

BY THE COURT:



~~HORACIO J. WHEELOCK~~
PRESIDING JUDGE, FOURTH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT