

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
OF THE COUNTY COURT OF HALL COUNTY, NEBRASKA**

As indicated by the Central District Health Department, the COVID-19 Pandemic has increased in severity. Information is available to indicate that unless additional steps are implemented, the severity of COVID-19 is likely to increase in our community. Therefore, the County Court of Hall County, Nebraska enters the following Administrative Order in regard to protective measures being taken by Hall County Court. Recognizing the concerns of counsel, their clients and the need to keep the docket moving, the Court finds specific procedures and scheduling are necessary to protect the public, litigants and court personnel. The Court orders effective November 18, 2020, the following procedures are to be administered:

GENERAL PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

- 1] All persons are required to wear a mask, face covering, scarf or other device completely covering and concealing their noses and mouths and said masks at all times in the county courtrooms of Hall County, Nebraska. (Unless otherwise designated upon permission of the Court).
- 2] No person shall be admitted to the Hall County Courthouse if they have a temperature of 100 degrees or more or if they refuse to have their temperature taken.
- 3] No more than 10 persons are allowed in Courtrooms 1 and 2 of the Hall County Court and are to follow the designated seating arrangement. The number of persons and seating in County Courtroom 3 shall be at the discretion of the presiding judge in Courtroom 3. The number of persons allowed in the courtroom may be limited or increased by permission of the court for a specific hearing upon good cause shown.

CIVIL/PROBATE CASES

Motions to Continue will be liberally granted for good cause shown due to COVID-19.

- 1] Civil hearings not requiring testimony and all civil pre-trials may be conducted either telephonically or via Webex provided parties agree to do so. The parties shall submit exhibits, etc. to the court by e-filing no later than 24 hours before the hearing and serve the same upon the opposing party. It is the responsibility of counsel to arrange for conference calls or Webex hearings and are to notify the court's bailiff in advance of the hearing as to the method chosen.
- 2] If plaintiff, defendant, petitioner and/or respondent are appearing personally in court, counsel for the same are to appear personally as well.

CRIMINAL CASES

- 1] Defense counsel, in advance of hearing, is encouraged to discuss with their clients filing written waivers of arraignment and preliminary hearings.
- 2] For persons in custody: Hearings not requiring the presentation of evidence shall be conducted via Webex.
- 3] Sentencings, per agreement of parties, may be conducted using Webex.
- 4] Defendants appearing in court personally, should be accompanied personally by counsel.
- 5] Non Contested hearings may be conducted either telephonically or via Webex provided parties agree to do so. It is the responsibility of counsel to arrange for conference calls or Webex hearings and are to notify the court's bailiff in advance of the hearing as to the method chosen.
- 6] Contested hearings shall require the appearance of counsel and their clients.
- 7] All defendants are excused from pretrial hearings until further order of the court. Counsel are still required to appear.
- 8] Motions to Continue, when granted, will be for good cause shown due to COVID-19.

JUVENILE CASES

- 1] Dispositions, per agreement of parties, may be conducted using Webex.
- 2] Juveniles appearing in court personally, should be accompanied personally by counsel.
- 3] Non Contested hearings may be conducted either telephonically or via Webex provided parties agree to do so.

It is the responsibility of counsel to arrange for conference calls or Webex hearings and are to notify the court's bailiff in advance of the hearing as to the method chosen.

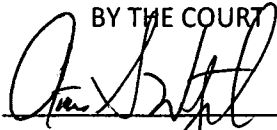
4) Contested hearings shall require the appearance of counsel and their clients.

CRIMINAL JURY TRIALS

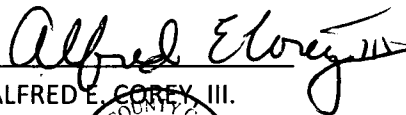
The Court orders that all criminal jury trials scheduled for December 2020 are continued; and, may be further continued upon order of the Court. The Court finds that given the risk to jurors, court personal, litigants and interpreters, the Court may not safely conduct jury trials at this time despite the best efforts of Hall County to provide a safe location for jury trials.

Dated on this 17 day of November 2020

BY THE COURT



ARTHUR S. WETZEL
HALL COUNTY JUDGE



ALFRED E. COREY, III.
HALL COUNTY JUDGE

