

# Supreme Court of Kentucky

## ORDER

**IN RE: ORDER APPROVING THE TEMPORARY LOCAL COVID  
PROTOCOL FOR THE 15TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT,  
CARROLL, GRANT, AND OWEN COUNTIES**

Upon recommendation of the Judges of the 15th Judicial District,  
Carroll, Grant, and Owen counties, and being otherwise sufficiently advised,

The Temporary Local COVID Protocol for the 15th Judicial District is  
hereby approved. This order shall be effective as of the date of this Order and  
shall remain in effect until further orders of this Court.

Entered this the 26th day of May 2020.

  
CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN D. MINTON, JR.

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
UNIFIED COURT OF JUSTICE  
15TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
DIVISIONS I AND II

**LOCAL RULE RELATING TO THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY**  
**FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2020**

On March 6, Governor Beshear entered Executive Order 2020-215 and declared a State of Emergency in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency in the Commonwealth. In further response to the crisis, the Supreme Court of Kentucky entered Order 2020-13 to protect the health and safety of court employees, elected officials, and the general public. On May 15, 2020, the Supreme Court of Kentucky entered Order 2020-39 permitting a partial reopening of the courts, but ultimately leaving the discretion to the judiciary at the local level.

After careful review, the Fifteenth Judicial District finds that the novel Coronavirus emergency situation persists in the Counties of the 15th Judicial District, that new cases are on the rise, and that it is unsafe for those who work in the Judicial Center and for the public to resume normal District Court operations, and hereby ORDERS the following measures be implemented from Monday, June 1, through Tuesday, June 30, 2020:

1. With the exception of emergency and time-sensitive matters, included but not limited to, domestic violence hearings, emergency custody hearings, temporary child support hearings, evidentiary hearings in criminal cases, in-custody arraignments, in-custody and out of custody preliminary hearings under RCr 3.10, in custody bond motions, in custody portion violation hearings, and in-custody juvenile detention hearings, all civil and criminal dockets shall be canceled, unless a judge determines in his or her discretion that a matter requires prompt attention or the issue can be addressed remotely. Judges will use available telephonic and video technology to conduct all hearings, unless the parties are unable to participate remotely.

2. Should an attorney have a matter that can be handled remotely that attorney is encouraged to file a motion to be heard at the convenience of the court, or to directly contact the appropriate judge via email, so long as all parties are copied on said email. This would include any criminal or civil matter subject to District Court jurisdiction that can be handled by telephone or video conference.

3. All cases involving allegations of Driving on a Suspended License or No Operators License, whether pending or new, shall be continued until January of 2021.

4. All show cause dockets for payment of fines and court costs shall be continued to January of 2021.

5. The Circuit Court Clerk of each county shall confer with the each Judge regarding the dates and times to be reflected on the court notices of all other cases set for arraignment or review.

6. The County Attorney's office of each county is encouraged to continue to work cases out of court and schedule any matters that can be heard by video conference or handled by Agreed Order.

Entered this the \_\_\_\_ day of May, 2020.

Handwritten signature of Elizabeth A. Chandler in cursive script.

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Elizabeth Chandler, Chief District Judge,  
Division 1

Handwritten signature of Thomas Funk in cursive script.

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Thomas Funk, District Judge,  
Division 2