

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE 19th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

FILED
BRYAN COUNTY, OKLAHOMA
DISTRICT COURT CLERK

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER)
IN RE:)
REOPENING OF THE)
BRYAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE)

AO-20-42

MAY 15 2020

DONNA ALEXANDER
COURT CLERK

BY *D. Alexander* Deputy

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING REOPENING OF
THE BRYAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

On March 12, 2020, the World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak as a global pandemic. On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency as a result of the emerging public health threat posed by COVID-19. On March 15, 2020, the Governor of Oklahoma issued an Executive Order declaring an emergency in all 77 Oklahoma Counties caused by the impending threat of the COVID-19 to the health of the people of Oklahoma. On March 16, 2020, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Oklahoma and the Presiding Judge of the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals issued SCAD Order 2020-24 regarding rescheduling of cases due to the COVID-19 health crisis. On March 25, 2020, the Bryan County Commissioners directed that the Bryan County Courthouse be closed to the public. The Bryan County Commissioners have since directed that the Bryan County Courthouse reopen to the public on May 18, 2020.

Based on the foregoing, the undersigned hereby enters the following directives to protect the safety of the people entering the Bryan County Courthouse.

DIRECTIVES FOR ENTERING THE BRYAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Everyone entering the Bryan County Courthouse will be subject to having their temperature taken prior to entry. Any person with a temperature in excess of 100.3° will likely be refused entry.

Everyone entering the Bryan County Courthouse is encouraged to wear a facemask or other mouth and nose covering. No facemask will be provided for any attorney, litigant, witness or other person having business before the District Court of Bryan County.

Everyone entering the Bryan County Courthouse is encouraged to wash their hands and use hand sanitizer frequently, and to follow all guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The only persons who will be allowed entry into the Bryan County Courthouse are employees of Bryan County, judges and their staff, those having business with the Court Clerk's Office, those having business with the Election Board, attorneys, staff members of attorneys, employees of the abstract offices, bondspersons, law enforcement officers, employees of the Crisis Control Center, litigants, witnesses and those persons who are covered by Marsy's Law.

Persons who will not be allowed entry into the Bryan County Courthouse are guests of litigants or other spectators, children (unless they are a named party in a lawsuit, or a witness or a person covered under Marsy's Law) or those who have a temperature above 100.3°.

No more than five (5) litigants may be in the Second Floor Courtroom at any one time.

No more than ten (10) litigants may be in the Third Floor Courtroom at any one time.

Congregating in a courtroom or in the hallway once any person's business is concluded in the Bryan County Courthouse is prohibited.

Litigants who have an attorney that represents them may be required to wait in their vehicle until their attorney calls or texts them to come inside of the Bryan County Courthouse.

Pro se litigants (those who do not have an attorney that represents them) may call the District Court of Bryan County at (580) 924-3450 upon arrival for their assigned hearing time, and leave their name and number with the bailiff. Those pro se litigants will then remain in their vehicles until they are notified to enter the Courthouse.

Any judge of the District Court of Bryan County may alter these directives and guidelines and rules as they see fit, in order to protect the health and safety of themselves, their staff and those appearing before him/her.

CIVIL CASES

- Attorneys are encouraged to continue filing electronically and to submit proposed orders electronically.
- Attorneys are encouraged to visit with opposing counsel and determine if any pending motion can be ruled on without the need for a hearing.
- Attorneys are encouraged to use the BlueJeans web program to facilitate video hearings whenever it is necessary to have a motion hearing.

DIVORCE/PATERNITY CASES

- Attorneys and pro se litigants may continue to submit agreed or default divorce/paternity decrees by email rather than appear in person before the judge assigned.

FELONY CASES

- Inmates in the Bryan County Jail will continue to appear before the Court by video, whenever feasible.
- Attorneys are permitted (but not required) to appear on behalf of their clients in any felony case, without the client being present, for initial appearances, preliminary hearing conferences and formal arraignments. However, an appropriate waiver form must be obtained from the Defendant prior to the attorney appearing on their behalf.
- All Defendants entering a felony plea must appear in person before the judge assigned.

MISDEMEANOR CASES

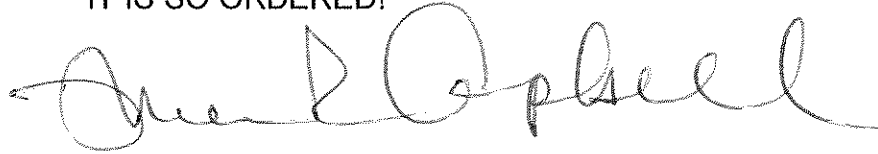
- Attorneys are permitted to appear on behalf of their clients in any misdemeanor case, without the client being present. This includes when a Defendant enters a plea in a misdemeanor case. However, an appropriate waiver form must be obtained from the Defendant prior to the attorney appearing on their behalf.

ALL CASES

- Any person who believes they are too ill to enter the Bryan County Courthouse for a matter for which they have been ordered to appear by the District Court of Bryan County must submit a written motion requesting to be excused from appearing from the hearing. For everyone except attorneys, the motion must be accompanied by written confirmation of the illness from a qualified medical provider. No telephonic requests to be excused for health reasons will be accepted.
- Failure of any person to abide by these directives and guidelines may result in the offending party being held in contempt.

The undersigned reserves the right to alter these directives and guidelines to further protect the health and safety of those in the community and those entering the Bryan County Courthouse at any time

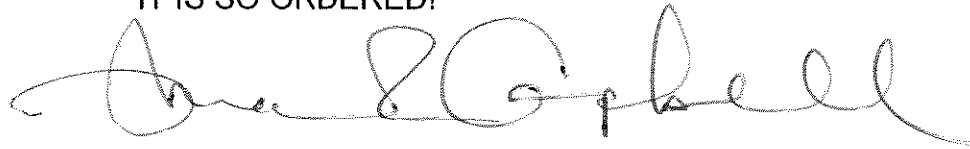
Now, on this 15th day of May, 2020,
IT IS SO ORDERED!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark R. Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and "C".

Mark R. Campbell, Chief Judge
19th Judicial District of Oklahoma

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