

STATE OF COLORADO
7TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DELTA, GUNNISON, HINSDALE, MONTROSE, OURAY & SAN MIGUEL

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-16 RE: JURY TRIALS

In light of the ongoing public health orders and COVID-19 pandemic coupled with the budgetary cuts reducing staffing, while jury trials have now commenced, a continuing transition plan is necessary to limit the number of trials conducted in the district for the immediate future.

Presently the Chief Justice, subject to waivers from the respective districts, has ordered that all jury trials are suspended to August 3, 2020. Our district has obtained a waiver permitting limited jury trials on certain specific conditions including expressly in the month of July only county court misdemeanor and traffic trials would be conducted. His order of July 24, 2020, allows jury trials to proceed as may be feasible in the respective districts.

Based on the initial experience with those proceedings, and the staffing reductions and shortages presently faced by the district as a result of the state budget reductions commencing July 1, 2020, we cannot resume all jury trials as scheduled in all locations as of August 3, 2020. It is hereby ordered as follows:

ORDER

1. We will continue to the extent possible with the transition plan reflected in Administrative Order 2020-11.
2. However, we cannot presently conduct two jury trials in one location in any of our six counties. Trials are presently requiring two courtrooms to facilitate social distancing.
3. Presently we may not be able to summon jurors in more than one location at any given time.
4. To the extent possible a schedule will be established identifying which trials in which location will proceed through at least the month of September 2020.
5. As the pandemic conditions, public health orders and executive orders from the Governor may require, this administrative order may be revised or extended as necessary.

Dated this 29th day of July, 2020.

BY THE COURT:


J. Steven Patrick
Chief Judge

Supreme Court of Colorado

2 East 14th Avenue
Denver, CO 80203
(720) 626-5460

NATHAN B. COATS
CHIEF JUSTICE

SUPREME COURT OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

Updated Order Regarding COVID-19 and Operation of Colorado State Courts

In consideration of evolving efforts to manage the current health crisis, including not only continual modifications of state and local public health directives and executive orders but also the experience of courts throughout the state in planning and safely staging jury trials in the current environment, my order of June 15, extending until August 3 the limitation on summoning prospective jurors for service in state courts, is hereby amended as follows:

Although a waiver from the Chief Justice will no longer be required, until further modification of this order, no person shall be summoned to assemble for jury service in a state court without the authorization of the Chief Judge of the particular judicial district, following his or her determination that the jury pool in question can be safely assembled consistent with applicable executive orders and health directives.

Done at Denver, Colorado this 24th day of July, 2020.



Nathan B. Coats
Chief Justice, Colorado Supreme Court