

DISTRICT COURT
FILED

MAY 13 2020

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF TULSA COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

AO-2020-5 DON NEWBERRY, Court Clerk
STATE OF OKLA. TULSA COUNTY

**AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER AO-2020-5
RE: FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER**

Administrative Order No. AO-2020-5, issued on May 11, 2020, is hereby amended as follows:

After the issuance of Administrative Order No. AO-2020-5, Judge Hiddle informed Judge Kelly Greenough and Presiding Judge William D. LaFortune that the Family Safety Center will not be able to open until June 1st, 2020, and not able to assist petitioners in preparing petitions for Temporary Emergency Protective Orders until that time.

As a result, Temporary Emergency Protective Orders will continue to be issued by Judge Hiddle and the on-call judge by telephone, with law enforcement assisting the petitioner in completing the forms, until June 1st, 2020.

Therefore, Section IV of Exhibit D (Family Court Dockets) of AO-2020-5 is stricken and replaced with the following:

VI. Protective Order Dockets

EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE ORDERS:

All Emergency Protective Order petitions will be in the form of an affidavit from the petitioner which the court will review, grant, or deny, and set any further hearings as necessary. Law enforcement will continue to assist petitioners in completing the EPO forms until June 1st, 2020, in the field. On June 1st, 2020, and thereafter, the Family Safety Center will assist petitioners in completing the EPO forms.

PROTECTIVE ORDER HEARINGS

To the extent possible, Protective Order Hearings will be conducted with some parties appearing by videoconferencing, using BlueJeans videoconferencing or the court's internal closed-circuit system that was historically used for video EPO hearings. When it is not possible to conduct a hearing by videoconference, to maintain social distancing in the courthouse during the Covid-19 crisis:

1. The bailiff will greet parties in the hallway as they arrive for court. He will mark them present on his docket and record their phone numbers and email addresses for future use when we transition to BlueJeans for video hearings. This information is for Court and staff use only and will not be released to any other party.

2. The petitioners will be directed to take the stairs to the basement and then to the jury assembly room (the Court Clerk has authorized us to use this space until the end of July). Respondents will be directed to wait elsewhere until called for their hearing.
3. In the jury assembly room, an advocate or bailiff will also record their presence on a docket and direct them to their waiting area.
4. As the docket is called, the clerk in the courtroom will call or text the bailiff in the waiting area with the parties' names in the next case. The bailiff will first call the petitioner and explain how to take the stairs to Room 111, then repeat with the defendant. The parties will not have to meet or pass in the stairs or hallway.
5. After the hearing, the petitioner will be released 1st, and the defendant 10-15 minutes afterward.

Only the parties and their necessary witnesses will be allowed to enter the waiting area and courtroom. Only parties in a single case will be allowed in the courtroom at any given time.

The parties who have brought children will have their cases continued to another day and given instructions not to bring children.

Currently, the statutory "after-hours" emergency protective order process is in use 24 hours per day, and this process will continue unchanged until June 1st, 2020, when petitioners will again be able to file petitions at the Family Safety Center with a new system designed to insure social distancing.

PPE requirements of the Oklahoma Supreme Court and District Court must be observed to the fullest extent possible. Litigants without PPE should meet with the bailiff first to determine whether PPE can be supplied by the court. In other words, if litigants appear in the courthouse without masks, they will likely have their hearings continued to another day.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 13th day of May, 2020.

William D. LaFortune

William D. LaFortune, Presiding Judge