

In accordance with Chief Justice Harold D. Melton's directive in his Fourth Order Extending Declaration of Statewide Judicial Emergency, the undersigned hereby publishes the following excerpt from the Clayton Judicial Circuit Comprehensive Court Operations Phase I Guidelines:

(A) No person (public or employee) shall be permitted entry or permitted to maintain entry into a courthouse within the Clayton Judicial Circuit:

(1) who has tested positive for COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and has not subsequently been medically cleared or has symptoms thereof;

(2) who has within the past 14 days (a) been notified of his/her contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, (b) traveled to a country, state, or city considered a hot spot for the spread of COVID-19, or (c) has a COVID-19 related symptom (such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, repeated shaking, headache, sore throat, loss of sense of taste or smell, etc.);

(3) who is not properly wearing a protective face covering over his/her nose and mouth at all times in the public area or any shared, private areas of the courthouse premises;

(4) who refuses to have his/her temperature checked or who has a temperature of 100.4 degrees or more; or

(5) who refuses to maintain social distancing of at least six feet or upon whose admission would result in the courthouse being at capacity as determined by social distancing recommendations of local public health officials or the CDC;

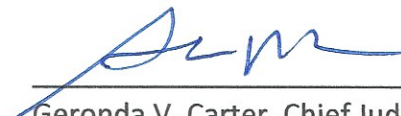
(B) The Sheriff or his designee (or Police Officer, depending on the location of the court), Court Services, and Bailiffs shall document, on a form provided for such purpose, when anyone is refused entry into a courthouse or is removed from a courthouse after initially being permitted entry;

(C) No court may hold a court proceeding or compel the attendance of any person for a court proceeding not authorized by the statewide and local declarations of judicial emergency;

(D) No court may compel the attendance of any person for a court proceeding if the court proceeding or the court facility in which the proceedings is to be held is not in compliance with the statewide and local emergency declarations;

(E) Courts are prohibited from compelling in-person participation in any court-imposed alternative dispute resolution session that is to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with applicable public health guidelines; and

(F) No court, judge or agency within a courthouse may independently permit any action that is prohibited or restricted under these guidelines.



Geronda V. Carter, Chief Judge
Superior Court, Clayton Judicial Circuit