

SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, STATE OF COLORADO

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-7

ORDER REGARDING THE WEARING OF FACIAL COVERINGS IN COURTROOMS
AND OFFICES IN THE COURTHOUSES OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly limited Court and Probation operations in the Sixth Judicial District due to the need to minimize the risk to the public, attorneys, litigants, and staff who are required, need, or wish to attend trials, hearings, and other functions in the courthouses, clerk's offices, and probation offices of the Sixth Judicial District. In order to resume an appropriate level of court and probation operations, while ensuring the safety of all individuals participating in or observing court and probation operations, and after considering Governor Polis' EXECUTIVE ORDER D 2020 039, as extended by D 2020 067, requiring workers in critical governmental functions to wear non-medical masks covering their nose and mouth, and the current Center for Disease Control "RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE USE OF CLOTH FACE COVERINGS, ESPECIALLY IN AREAS OF SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY-BASED TRANSMISSION," and considering ORDER NO. 2020 – 08, AN ORDER OF THE INTERIM MANAGER OF THE CITY OF DURANGO PURSUANT TO THE EMERGENCY DECLARATION RELATED TO THE COVID-19 HEALTH CRISIS ADOPTING A POLICY REQUIRING FACE COVERINGS IN THE CITY OF DURANGO TO ASSIST WITH THE SUPPRESSION OF THE DISEASE DURING THE PERIOD WHEN THE EMERGENCY DECLARATION IS IN EFFECT, the Court hereby orders that all individuals who enter any courtroom, clerk, or probation office in the Sixth Judicial District shall wear an appropriate face covering.

An appropriate face covering shall comply with paragraph 2 of the City of Durango's Order 2020-08 which defines a face covering as:

A covering made of cloth, fabric, or other soft or permeable material, without holes, that covers only the nose and mouth and surrounding areas of the lower face, and that fits snugly but comfortably against the side of the face and remains in place without the use of one's hands. Face coverings include, but are not limited to, bandanas, medical masks, cloth masks, buffs, and gaiters. Face coverings do not include any mask that incorporates a one-way valve (typically a raised plastic cylinder about the size of a quarter on the front or side of the mask) that is designed to facilitate easy exhaling, and such masks are not to be used to comply with this Order. Valves of that type without filters permit droplet release from the mask and can put others nearby at risk.

The Court further orders that individuals not complying with this order may be required to leave the areas stated above. Judicial officers and/or clerk or probation supervisors shall make reasonable accommodations for any individuals articulating a health or safety reason to not wear a face covering. Such accommodations shall ensure the safety of staff and the public. The accommodations shall ensure that the individual seeking such accommodations is able to

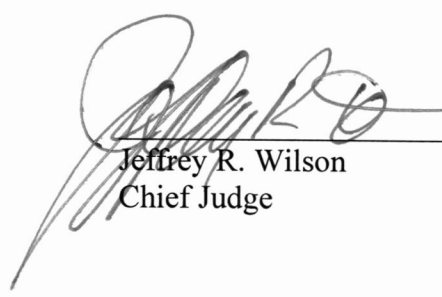
completely and fairly conduct any necessary business with the courts or probation. The failure to appear for a mandatory court appearance or probation appointment will not be excused due to the failure to comply with this order.

In the La Plata County Courthouse, courthouse security officers will provide facial coverings to any individual needing to wear one. In the San Juan County Courthouse and the clerk's office in Archuleta County, the court clerks will provide appropriate face coverings to individuals who need them. All persons providing facial coverings to the public shall wear an appropriate facial covering and gloves when doing so. Courthouse security officers may not deny entry into the courthouses to any individual not wearing a complying facial covering; however, judicial officers, court and probation staff may refuse to allow non-complying individuals from entering or remaining in any courtrooms, probation or clerk offices.

Presiding judicial officers have the discretion to modify this order in their courtrooms after taking into consideration the number of persons in their courtroom, each individual's location in the courtroom in relation to others, the nature of the proceedings being held in the courtroom, the need to ensure that a proper record is made of the proceedings, and the length of time the proceedings in the courtroom are expected to last. Judicial officers, as well as the Chief Probation Officer, the Court Executive, probation and clerk supervisors shall have the discretion to modify this order in their individual offices and chambers after taking into consideration the number of individuals in each room, the locations of the work stations in each room, and whether the room is accessible to individuals other than court or probation staff.

This order is effective June 1, 2020, and will continue until further order of the Court. Copies of this order shall be posted at the entrances to the courthouses, the clerk's offices, probation offices and each courtroom in the Sixth Judicial District.

Done and signed this 26th day of May, 2020.



Jeffrey R. Wilson
Chief Judge