

**DAVIDSON COUNTY CHANCERY COURT PART I – GUIDELINES\***

**Chancellor Patricia Head Moskal**

**Part I has resumed in-person hearings and trials.**

**Motion Dockets:** Hearings on the regular motion docket will be conducted in-person, on Fridays, beginning at 9:00 a.m./central, using the protocols outlined below. Upon request of counsel or a party, motions may be heard remotely via *ZoomGov* videoconference. Please contact the Part I Calendar Clerk for scheduling prior to the hearing date.

**Other Non-Evidentiary Hearings:** Other non-evidentiary hearings will be specially set and conducted in-person, using the protocols outlined below. Upon request of counsel or a party, non-evidentiary hearings may be conducted remotely via *ZoomGov* videoconference. Please contact the Part I Calendar Clerk for scheduling prior to the hearing date.

**Non-Jury Trials:** All non-jury trials will be conducted in-person using the protocols outlined below and scheduled in accordance with Davidson County Local Rules of Practice § 27.02.

**Jury Trials:** All jury trials will be conducted in-person using the protocols outlined below. Jury trials currently are being scheduled in accordance with Local Rules § 27.02. Please note that the Part I Courtroom is not large enough to accommodate jury trials with required physical distancing, and jury trials will be scheduled and held in other courtrooms, subject to courtroom availability.

**COVID-19 Protocols for In-Person Hearings:** The following protocols will be enforced to protect everyone's health and safety and minimize the risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus:

1. Masks are strongly encouraged upon entering the Historic Metropolitan Courthouse.
2. Masks are ***required***, covering the mouth and nose, of all persons in the Part I Courtroom, unless the Court allows a party, attorney, or witness to remove their mask while speaking.
3. Physical distancing (3 feet) will be observed in the courtroom, including all counsel, parties, witnesses, court reporters, observers, and the media.
4. No more than two (2) persons may be seated together at each counsel table, with masks to be worn at all times. Plexiglass partitions are installed on either side of the podium.
5. Witnesses will testify from a seat in the jury box, with a microphone provided by the Court.
6. Exhibits are to be presented to witnesses in notebooks, prepared by counsel or the parties, and through use of the courtroom visual presenter, to minimize the passing of documents and movement within the courtroom. Parties are requested to provide the Court with one additional copy of all exhibits.
7. Frequent use of hand sanitizer is requested. At appropriate times, the Court will take breaks or pause the proceedings to allow courtroom surfaces to be sanitized during hearings, between witnesses, and at the end of the day.

**Questions:** If you have questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Julie Spencer, the Part I Calendar Clerk, at (615) 862-5718 or [juliespencer@jishnashville.gov](mailto:juliespencer@jishnashville.gov).

Thank you for your cooperation and patience as we continue to focus on protecting the health and safety of our community.

**\*Notice:** These Part I Guidelines are subject to change consistent with Tennessee Supreme Court Orders, the 20th Judicial District Plan, and Metropolitan Courthouse protocols.