

DAVIDSON COUNTY CHANCERY COURT PART IV GUIDELINES

Regarding Resumption of In-Person Hearings

Part IV is currently specially setting non-jury, in-person hearings and trials. Part IV will begin allowing in-person hearings on its regular motion docket on Friday, May 14, 2021. Part IV will start conducting in-person jury trials as early as July 2021.

COVID-19 Restrictions for In-Person Proceedings

The following procedures, designed to minimize the risk of transmission of COVID-19, apply:

1. Masks are required at all times on the fourth floor of the Historic Courthouse, unless a party takes off his/her mask while speaking in a courtroom as part of a courtroom proceeding. Social distancing is required for everyone in the courtroom, including counsel, parties, observers and press representatives.
2. Co-Counsel and parties may elect to sit together at counsel table, as long as they are wearing masks. Counsel may opt to remove their masks only when they are at the podium making a presentation to the Court or when questioning a witness. Witnesses may remove their masks only while they are testifying, if they chose to do so.
3. Parties, party representatives, and observers will wear masks and stay in the back of the courtroom at least six feet apart.
4. The Court expects the parties to present exhibits and/or demonstratives in a notebook or on the courtroom screen to minimize movement and passing of documents in the courtroom.
5. At appropriate times in the hearing (usually after approximately one hour), the Court may take a break so that courtroom surfaces can be wiped down.

Regular Motion Docket

Beginning May 14, 2021, the Court will resume having in-person hearings on its regular motion docket. The parties will have the option of choosing whether to have an in-person hearing or a telephonic hearing for matters set on the regular motion docket. If all parties agree, then any motion scheduled on the Court's regular motion docket may be heard by telephone conference.

If someone objects to having an in-person hearing on the Court's regular motion docket, then the default position will be to have an in-person hearing. However, any attorney or litigant who prefers to not appear in-person for matters on the Court's regular motion docket will be permitted to participate by telephone. To the extent that matters on the regular motion docket are heard telephonically or matters on the regular motion docket are heard in-person with one or more parties participating by telephone, Chancellor Perkins will participate in these hearings from the bench in the Part IV courtroom.

Jury Trials

Part IV is now scheduling jury trials set to commence in July 2021 or thereafter. These jury trials will be governed by the Jury Trial Information for the Davidson County Trial Courts, along with these guidelines.

Russell. T. Perkins, Chancellor
Davidson County Chancery Court, Part IV
May 4, 2021

NOTICE: The foregoing Guidelines are subject to the directives of the Tennessee Supreme Court and the guidance of federal, state, and local public health officials.

Part IV does not hear evidentiary matters, applications for temporary injunctive relief, or contempt petitions on its regular motion docket.