



To implement the [Order](#) issued by Chief Justice Gildea, the Second Judicial District has developed updated case handling protocols by Division. Please note that the information contained in this document is specific to the Second Judicial District.

Building Access:

For information regarding Second Judicial District courthouse building access and requirements, please review the [Administrative Orders](#) issued by Chief Judge John H. Guthmann.

Civil:

Pursuant to the Administrative Order ADM20-8001, the court may conduct hearings in civil cases types other than civil jury trials. Civil jury trials may not be heard before September 1, 2020. All case types are encouraged to be conducted remotely whenever possible. Hearing conducted in-person must comply with the Minnesota Judicial Branch Preparedness Plan.

Upon approval of the assigned judge, hearings for all case types may be held by a remote option, in person, or by review of the parties' submissions without oral argument, to the extent feasible, practicable, and in the interest of justice.

All civil hearings will use a remote option unless a judicial officer determines an in-person hearing is required. Limited civil case types may be held in-person while other case types may be eligible for remote hearing options such as ITV or phone conference. Any request for relief that presents an immediate liberty concern, or when public or personal safety concern are paramount, may be heard in-person.

The court will prioritize resources for the use of remote and in-person courtroom operations.

With approval of the assigned judge, and with the exception of eviction cases, hearings in all other case types through April 22, 2020 may be held by review of the parties' submissions without oral argument or by phone, to the extent feasible, practicable, and in the interests of justice. Please contact the assigned judge or call 651-266-8266 X3 for additional information.

Family and Domestic Abuse/Harassment:

Per Administrative Order ADM20-8001, effective May 15, 2020, the Court began implementing the transitional case strategy approved by the Judicial Council allowing for the expansion of in-person and remote hearings in Family and Domestic Abuse/Harassment Court. The Court is working to reschedule all previously postponed Family matters and schedule hearings for all new matters filed during the emergency suspension of Family case proceedings.

Parties may also request the Court to consider motions based solely on paper submissions and without oral argument.

Criminal:

Pursuant to the Administrative Order ADM20-8001, the court may conduct hearings in criminal cases. Criminal Jury trials will be piloted beginning June 8, 2020. All case types are encouraged to be conducted remotely whenever possible. Hearing conducted in-person must comply with the Minnesota Judicial Branch Preparedness Plan.

In adherence to Administrative Order ADM20-8001, Criminal Hearings will be conducted as follows:

- LEC 101 for in custody matters: Misdemeanor and Gross Misdemeanor first appearances, omnibus hearings, plea hearings, bail motions, and 10 day-demands.
- LEC 102 for in custody matters: Felony first appearances, Rule 8 Hearings, Omnibus Hearings, bail motions, and probation violations for all levels of offense.
- Pretrial Hearings will be conducted via Zoom for all levels of offense,
- In-person pretrial hearings will be scheduled beginning July 1, 2020.
- Omnibus Hearings for out-of-custody defendants will be conducted via Zoom for all levels of offense beginning June 22, 2020.
- Rule 8 hearings for out-of-custody defendants will be conducted via Zoom for Felony and Gross Misdemeanor offenses beginning June 22, 2020.
- Motion Hearings may be scheduled after June 8, 2020. All motion hearings will be heard via Zoom unless court order authorizes an in-person hearing.
- Sentencings will be heard by the assigned judge via Zoom effective June 8, 2020. In person hearings are available July 6, 2020.
- Contested probation violations will be heard by the sentencing judge via Zoom effective June 8, 2020. In-person hearings are available by court order.
- Jury Trials will be piloted beginning June 8, 2020. All jury trials will be conducted in-person.
- Felony First Appearances for out of custody defendants will begin July 6, 2020 via Zoom.
- Misdemeanor and Gross Misdemeanor first appearances for out of custody defendants will begin July 20, 2020. In-person first appearances will be available in August, 2020.
- Petty Court Trials will be handled in-person beginning in August, 2020.

Court Administration will continue to monitor resumption of operations and make adjustments to scheduling as we progress. Dates for Zoom and in-person hearings may change in response to needs of court participants.

Child Protection:

Per Administrative Order ADM20-8001, effective May 15, 2020, the Court began implementing the transitional case strategy approved by the Judicial Council allowing for the expansion of in-person and remote hearings in CHIPS Court. The Court is working to reschedule previously postponed CHIPS hearings. All CHIPS hearing types and trials will be scheduled for in-person or remote appearances in accordance with the guidelines contained in the transitional case strategy.

Juvenile Delinquency:

Per Administrative Order ADM20-8001,- effective May 15, 2020, the Court began implementing the transitional case strategy approved by the Judicial Council allowing for the expansion of in-person and remote hearings in Juvenile Delinquency Court. The Court is working to reschedule previously postponed Juvenile hearings. All Juvenile hearing types and trials will be scheduled for in-person or remote appearances in accordance with the guidelines contained in the transitional case strategy.

The Second Judicial District will make every effort to notify attorneys and self-represented litigants of the postponement and rescheduling of hearings during the next 30 days. **If you have an emergency situation requiring the attention of the Court**, a hearing request may be made in writing. If you have a court case scheduled at any Ramsey County District Court location between March 23, 2020 and April 22, 2020 and you are unable to discern whether your case will be heard or will be scheduled to a future date, **please call (651) 266-8266**.

***Attorneys have been asking whether lower priority case types can be addressed during the emergency. Administrative Order ADM20-8001 authorizes proceedings in all other case types provided they are held by ITV or any other remote technology that permits the parties and attorneys to appear without being in the courtroom, or by review of the parties' submissions without oral argument, to the extent feasible and practicable. To that end, the Second Judicial District is currently evaluating its remote technology capabilities and will provide additional information by March 27, 2020 regarding other proceedings that may be held remotely.**

The Minnesota Judicial Branch continues to monitor the most current statements and recommendations regarding COVID-19 in Minnesota. The Branch is coordinating closely with statewide partners, including the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). The Branch will be following MDH recommendations as the situation evolves. Therefore, anyone who plans to or is required to go to a courthouse will be asked to follow all necessary precautions to prevent spread. When measures are implemented, they will be posted at <http://mncourts.gov/emergency>