

MUNICIPAL COURT, CITY OF BOULDER, COLORADO
STANDING ORDER 2020-03
SUBJECT: Updated Boulder Municipal Court Response to COVID-19

To: Court Administrator, Boulder Municipal Court Judges, Boulder Municipal Court Probation Services, Captain of the Jail, Boulder Police Department, CU Police Department, City Prosecutor's office, Legal Aid and Defender Program

From: Linda P. Cooke Date: May 12, 2020, nunc pro tunc May 4, 2020
Presiding Judge, Boulder Municipal Court

The widespread emergence of the COVID-19 virus creates significant public health risks. In response, numerous advisories and orders have been issued by the Centers for Disease Control, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and Boulder County Public Health. These entities recommend taking active steps to slow the spread of the disease, as well as precautions to reduce the risk of exposure.

Since the Court's Standing Order 2020-02 was issued on March 24, 2020, circumstances have evolved. Specifically, on May 8, 2020, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment issued Order 20-28, Safer at Home, a transition from the previous Stay at Home order. Similarly, Boulder County Public Health's Stay at Home order expired May 9, 2020.

As an essential part of the criminal justice system, the court was not required to cease operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, in order to assist local and statewide efforts to ameliorate the effects of the pandemic, the court closed its operations to the public effective March 24, 2020, until further notice. The court continued to resolve appropriate cases without court appearances, and conducted a limited number of court appearances by video or phone.

At this time, the court finds it appropriate to expand the scope of its operations. Beginning in May, the court expects people with scheduled court dates to appear for court. The court will attempt to contact all people scheduled for court and offer them the option of appearing in person, by video, or by phone. People who choose to appear in person are required to wear face coverings unless exempted under local orders regarding the wearing of face coverings. They will also be required to maintain a social distance of at least six feet from others while in the courtroom or surrounding areas. Prosecutors, defense attorneys, court staff and other participants may elect to appear by video until June 1.

The court previously continued all jury trials scheduled through May 31, 2020. On May 5, 2020, the Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court found that jury pools could not be assembled consistent with existing public health guidelines. For that reason, he indicated that no person shall be summoned by state courts to assemble for jury service prior to July 6, 2020, unless a waiver is granted. While not binding on municipal courts, the court finds this to be valuable guidance and agrees with the Chief Justice's rationale. Therefore, no jury trials will be conducted in the Boulder Municipal Court during the month of June.

People without scheduled court dates may not access the court at this time. To promote recommended health and safety measures in the workplace, judges and court staff are in the building on a limited basis. Court staff remain available to provide assistance by email or phone. Information regarding court operations, as well as how to contact the court, is available on the court's website at

<https://bouldercolorado.gov/municipal-court>. If you do not have a current court date and would like to schedule one, contact the court.

To the extent this Order differs from Standing Order 2020-02, issued on March 24, 2020, this Order 2020-03 supersedes that order.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda P. Cooke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

Hon. Linda P. Cooke
Presiding Judge
Boulder Municipal Court