



FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

CLACKAMAS COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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OREGON CITY, OREGON 97045
DEBBIE D. SPRADLEY, TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR

Court Administrator
655-8670
Accounting / Collections
655-8453
Civil Case Unit
655-8447
Criminal Unit
655-8643
Calendaring Unit
655-8643
Records Unit
655-8447

Clackamas County Circuit Court COVID-19 Update for March 9, 2021

On November 17, 2020, Governor Kate Brown issued Executive Order 20-65, ordering a statewide “two-week freeze.” In response, Chief Justice Martha Walters issued CJO 20-047 on November 18, 2020, imposing in-person restrictions on court operations during the statewide “freeze.” The Court then issued PJO 2020-33, pausing noncustodial jury trials for the duration of the “freeze.”

On December 2, 2020, Governor Brown signed Executive Order 20-66, which introduced the “Risk and Safety Framework” for reopening counties statewide, designating counties as Extreme, High, Moderate, and Lower Risk. In response, the Court issued PJO 2020-34, continuing the pause of noncustodial jury trials.

On February 17, 2021, Chief Justice Walters issued Amended CJO 20-047, ordering that a Presiding Judge may authorize jury trials other than those allowed to continue under the “freeze,” provided that, as of the date of the scheduled trial, the Governor has approved one or more counties in the judicial district to move to a category other than “Extreme Risk.”

Subsequently, the Court issues PJO 2021-04, which ordered that noncustodial jury trials resume on or after March 2, 2021 if sufficient staff are available and social distancing requirements are met.

All criminal jury trials have resumed in person unless aspects of a jury trial may be conducted remotely by video if permitted by law and the judge who is presiding in a case has so ordered. Due to the courthouse’s limited capacity, only two jury trials may occur on any given day.

The Court requests preliminary motions be resolved prior to trial. Attorneys should contact the Calendaring department to schedule any pending pretrial motions and are encouraged to contact the Court with any case updates as soon as possible.

Staff will continue to inquire about the status of upcoming criminal jury trials two-weeks in advance and request attorneys report within 48 hours of receipt of these email inquiries. The Court will then use these responses to prioritize which trials will proceed and will send out an email listing the selected trials the Thursday or Friday prior. Custodial trials will take precedence over noncustodial trials, and noncustodial trials will be prioritized based on the age of the case, number of witnesses, etc.

The Court also requests that all attorneys, their clients and other individuals appear remotely as much as possible. The vast majority of all court appearances at this time should be by telephone or WebEx (as explained on the Court's website).

As more changes are determined we will notify the community, the local bar, and post changes on the court's website: <https://www.courts.oregon.gov/courts/clackamas/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

QUESTIONS?

General questions can be referred to: cla.court.info@ojd.state.or.us