



Multnomah County Circuit Court COVID-19 Update

Out of concern for public health and preventing the spread of COVID-19, the Multnomah County Circuit Court continues to restrict operations in order to greatly reduce the number of people coming into court facilities. The court is following the Chief Justice Order issued November 18, 2020.

See below for department specific contact information and email addresses.

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/multnomah>

Multnomah County Central Courthouse is now operating at 1200 SW First Avenue Portland, OR 97204

JURY

- If you are a Grand Juror please report as instructed.
- Most matters needing jurors have been rescheduled. We recognize this is a very challenging time and the governor's order to Stay Home is to be taken very seriously. Some matters requiring jurors, including a small number of trials and grand juries, have been deemed to be essential matters that must continue to occur even while restrictions are in place. We are working to keep the courthouse a safe place for jurors, staff, and visitors.
- Jurors should call the number on their juror summons after 5:00pm the day before they are summoned to report to find out if they need to appear for service.
- You can also check the web site at <https://www.courts.oregon.gov/courts/multnomah/jury/Pages/jury-schedule.aspx>

Further questions about Jury Service can be sent to Mul.JuryDuty@ojd.state.or.us

CIVIL

- It is extremely unlikely that the court will be able to conduct a civil jury trial as long as physical distancing is required by Chief Justice Order due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Attorneys should contact Presiding Court for a telephone scheduling

conference to pick new trial dates; the court will not automatically set over trials without a scheduling conference. Civil jury trials scheduled for later in 2020 or in early to mid-2021 have a better chance of occurring than trials scheduled for the summer or fall of 2020.

- Civil court trials may be held.
- Civil Ex Parte will only be held in the morning, starting at 10:30 a.m. by phone. Presiding Court phone lines will be open until 12:00 noon. Ex parte appearances should be handled by telephone, 1-408-418-9388, code 1467008974. Email documents before appearing to Katlynn.m.backus@ojd.state.or.us and Suzanne.R.Johnson@ojd.state.or.us. In-person appearances at ex parte are allowed, but only when necessary. Social distancing and protective face coverings required.
- Trial Readiness Conferences resumed August 3, 2020 by telephone.
- Civil motion hearings resumed June 1, 2020, conducted by telephone.
- While the court is operating under Level 2 restrictions and civil jury trials are being postponed, there is no need to send chambers copies to judges as required by SLR 5.017 unless requested by the court.

Further questions about Civil matters can be sent to Mul.Civil@ojd.state.or.us

LANDLORD TENANT

- Landlord Tenant first appearances and hearings will be scheduled after January 4, 2021.

Further questions about Landlord Tenant Matters can be sent to Mul.Evictions@ojd.state.or.us

SMALL CLAIMS

- Small Claims hearings and trials will be rescheduled to be held after January 4, 2021.
- Small Claims remote mediations are still being held as no in-person appearance is required.

Further questions about Small Claims cases can be sent to Mul.SmallClaims@ojd.state.or.us

CRIMINAL

- The court will continue to hold in-custody arraignments, in-custody probation violation hearings, in-custody pleas, in-custody probable cause hearings, in-custody release hearings, in-custody judicial settlement conferences and in-custody substitution hearings.
- The court will also be holding out-of-custody misdemeanor arraignments, plea hearings, sentencing hearings, substitution of attorney hearings, and limited judicial settlement conferences in felony matters as long as they can be handled through remote means.
- Trial assignment and short matters dockets (Presiding and CPC) will be conducted remotely for the purposes of setting new further proceedings and call dates.

- Verification Staff will be at window fifteen (15) at the central courthouse.
- Felony out-of-custody pleas and judicial settlement conferences may be held; and will be assigned off the Presiding Court 9:15 “short matters” docket.
- Probation violation hearings will continue to be held in courtroom 8D at the main courthouse.
- TSI dates have been postponed. Call (503) 988-3276 to reschedule.

Further questions about criminal calendaring can be directed to Mul.Criminal@ojd.state.or.us

Questions about arraignments and other matters occurring at the Justice Center can be directed to Mul.Arraignments@ojd.state.or.us

FAMILY LAW

- The Family Law public counter will be opened for limited services.
- Restraining order applications and immediate danger motions will be accepted at the Family Law counter in the Central Public Service area of the courthouse before noon each day.
- Protective order applications will be heard at 1:15pm.
- Contested restraining order hearings will be scheduled and parties will be sent notice with the date, time, and location.
- Motions for Immediate Danger and Orders of Assistance will be heard at ex parte at 1:15pm. If a hearing is requested on an Immediate Danger parties will be sent notice with the date, time, and location of the hearing. Motions in cases retained by an individual judge shall be directed to the retained judge.
- Trial Assignment will be held. Hearings already set on the Trial Assignment Docket previously allowed under level 2 restrictions will be set-over at Trial Assignment.
- The court will be accepting and setting Enforcement of Parenting time motions. Dates for hearings on these motions will be given at the counter, and a phone line will be set up for attorneys to obtain dates.
- All other trials currently set on an individual judge’s calendar between today and December 31, 2020 will be re-set and notices will be sent.
- The court will accept Requests for appointment of counsel for minor children, Identity Change petitions (Adult Only), Motions for Complex Case/Special Set and stipulated judgments and orders.
- Civil commitment hearings will be held remotely, rather than occurring in hospitals.
- Parties seeking to modify child and/or spousal support shall file a motion and affidavit. The court will issue an Order to Show Cause and will notify the parties of a date for a hearing. Once parties receive notice of a hearing date, they shall file a Uniform Support Declaration within 30 days.
- The court will conduct in-custody violation of restraining orders (VRO) and in-custody support enforcement (SED) matters.
- Adoptions will be processed and signed.

Further questions about Family Law matters can be sent to Mul.Familylaw@ojd.state.or.us

JUVENILE

- The Juvenile Court is open for both delinquency and dependency cases.
- Delinquency proceedings: In-custody initial appearances, 10-day detention review and 28/56 day hearings, case management conferences
- Dependency proceedings: Protective custody orders by electronic means, shelter hearings, dependency and termination of parental rights trials, motions to dismiss, permanency hearings, pretrial conferences, judicial settlement conferences, initial appearances in termination of parental rights cases
- All participants are strongly encouraged to appear remotely. Information will be provided when a hearing is set.

Further questions about Juvenile matters can be sent to Mul.Juvenile@ojd.state.or.us

PROBATE

- Petitions or motions for appointment, termination or extensions of temporary guardianships, temporary conservatorships and emergency protections orders shall be scheduled and heard.
- Motions for Expedited Hearing on Indefinite Guardianship and conservatorship to be filed electronically, with notice to all parties. These motions will be decided by the Chief Probate Judge or his designee.
- The Probate Department is closed for in-person matters.
- To pay visitor's fees in probate, please use the probate email below.

Further questions about Probate matters can be sent to Mul.ProbateDept@ojd.state.or.us

RECORDS

- Requests for records can be sent to Mul.Records@ojd.state.or.us

TRAFFIC

- The Traffic Department is closed for in-person matters. Traffic trials will be rescheduled to be held sometime in the beginning of 2021.
- Traffic first appearances will not be able to occur in person. Defendants will not be penalized for failing to appear in person but should mail-in their not guilty plea or no contest plea with payment, or a failure to appear could be entered on your case.
- Instituted a grace period for failing to appear or pay for traffic citations or failing to comply with court-ordered classes during this period. However, you should email the traffic department if you have questions about when the court needs to receive information on your citation.
- Individuals can continue to make payments online at <https://www.courts.oregon.gov/services/online/Pages/epay.aspx>

Further questions about Traffic cases can be sent to Mul.TrafficDept@ojd.state.or.us

PARKING

- The Parking Department is closed for in-person matters.
- Parking court trials will be rescheduled to be held sometime in the beginning of 2021.
- Ceased imposing penalties for failing to appear or pay for parking citations.
- Individuals can continue to make payments online at <https://www.courts.oregon.gov/services/online/Pages/epay.aspx>

Further questions about Parking matters can be sent to Mul.ParkingDept@ojd.state.or.us

PAYMENTS/COLLECTIONS

- No cash payments can be made in-person at any court locations.
- Oregon Judicial Department is not referring any new cases to collections at this time.
- Oregon Judicial Department asked debt collectors for delinquent accounts to discontinue any new garnishment actions and provide grace periods and leniency to debtors.
- Individuals can continue to make payments online at <https://www.courts.oregon.gov/services/online/Pages/epay.aspx>
- Payments can also be made by calling 1-888-564-2828. This line is for payments only.

Further questions about payments/collections can be sent to Mul.FinancialDept@ojd.state.or.us

General questions can be referred to: Mul.Public.Information@ojd.State.or.us

Presiding Judge Orders can be found at:

<https://www.courts.oregon.gov/courts/multnomah/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>