



Multnomah County Circuit Court COVID-19 Update for March 31, 2020

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 March 27, 2020, limiting the court to statutorily required proceedings through June 1st, or the date the Level III restrictions are limited, whichever is later. The restrictions imposed under the Chief Justice's orders may be extended beyond June 1, 2020, depending on the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 virus.

Most public service counters and phone lines have been shut down. See below for department specific 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>

JURY

If you are a Juror who received a summons for any of the following days: Monday March 30th, Tuesday March 31st, Wednesday April 1st, Thursday April 2nd, or Friday April 3rd, your appearance is not needed. Please do not come to the courthouse.

- 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>

CIVIL

- All civil jury trials are being postponed to be held after June 1st.

- All civil trials scheduled to begin on or after June 1, 2020 and before August 1, 2020, will be postponed to a date after August 1, 2020.
- Civil Ex Parte will only be held in the morning, from 10:30am-11am, or until finished. Presiding Court phone lines will be open until noon. Please, only come to ex parte if delay would violate a statutory or constitutional right, jeopardize public health or safety, or would result in imminent irreparable harm.
- Rule 7 Change - Civil cases with pending deadlines pursuant to UTCR 7.020(2) and/or (3) before June 1, 2020, shall receive an automatic 60-day extension from the due date.
- While the court is on Level 3 Restrictions and civil trials are being postponed, there is no need to send chambers copies to judges, as required by SLR 5.017.

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

LANDLORD TENANT

- All Landlord Tenant hearings and trials will be rescheduled to be held after June 1st.

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 June 1st.

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, and in-custody substitution hearings.
- Trial assignment and short matters dockets (Presiding and CPC) will be conducted via phone for the purposes of setting new call and trial dates.
- Justice Center public service counter remains open.

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 court will conduct in-custody violation of restraining orders (VRO) and in-custody support enforcement (SED) matters.
- Restraining order applications and immediate danger motions will be accepted at the Justice Center before noon each day.

- Contested restraining order hearings will be scheduled and parties will be sent notice with the date, time and location.
- Motions for Immediate Danger Order will be heard by the Judges assigned to the restraining order application dockets at 1:15 in the downtown courthouse. If a hearing is requested, parties will be notified and sent notice with the date, time and location of the hearing. Specially assigned cases will be scheduled through the assigned judge.
- All cases which are on the Trial Assignment docket between today and June 1 will be re-set and notices will be sent. There will be no Trial Assignment docket.
- All other matters currently set on a judge's calendar between today and June 1 will be re-set and notices will be sent.
- Civil commitment hearings will be held by phone, rather than occurring in hospitals.

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

JUVENILE

The only matters that will be heard at the juvenile court are the following:

- Protective custody orders (presented to the on-call judge electronically)
- Shelter hearings
- Delinquency in-custody initial appearances
 - In-custody probation violations
 - 10-day detention reviews and 28/56 day detention duration hearings

All other juvenile matters, including but not limited to dependency review and permanency hearings, will be re-set to a date after June 1st. Judicial officers' staff will notify parties of new dates.

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

PROBATE

- Temporary guardianships and temporary conservatorships will be heard if scheduled through the Probate Department.
- All trials and hearings through June 1st are being rescheduled.
- 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

- The Records Department is closed for in-person matters. 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 after June 1st.
- Traffic first appearances will not be able to occur in person. Defendants will not be penalized for failing to appear in person or otherwise failing to respond to citations during this period; citations appearance deadlines will be extended to beyond June 1st.
- Ceased imposing penalties for failing to appear or pay for traffic citations or failing to comply with court-ordered classes during this period.
- 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 after June 1st.
- 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 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

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