



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 May 15, 2020, allowing the court to expand operations under Level II restrictions. The Multnomah County Circuit Court begins operating under Level 2 restrictions on June 22, 2020.

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>

We are moving! Effective October 5, 2020 the Multnomah County Central Courthouse will be 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

- Civil jury trials will not be held before August 1. Civil jury trials may be scheduled to begin after August 1, 2020, but it is unlikely that the court will be able to conduct civil jury trials as long as social distancing is required.

- Civil court trials may be held beginning August 3.
- Civil Ex Parte will only be held in the morning, from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., or until finished. Presiding Court phone lines will be open until 12:00 noon. Ex parte appearances should be handled by telephone, 1-866-921-1127, code 2607214284. Email documents before appearing to Katlynn.m.backus@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 will resume August 3, 2020.
- 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 postpone, 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

- All Landlord Tenant first appearances and hearings will resume after July 10, 2020, to the extent allowed under any applicable moratoriums on evictions.

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 August 1, 2020.

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 begin holding out-of-custody plea hearings, sentencing hearings, substitution of attorney hearings, and limited judicial settlement conferences in felony matters.
- Trial assignment and short matters dockets (Presiding and CPC) will be conducted via phone for the purposes of setting new further proceedings and call dates.
- Justice Center public service counter remains open, when the Justice Center is open to the public. Otherwise, Justice Center Verification Staff will be located in room 103 of the main courthouse.
- Out-of-custody pleas and judicial settlement conferences may be held; will be assigned off the Presiding Court 9:15 “short matters” docket
- Probation violation hearings will continue to be held at the Justice Center, courtroom 2
- 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 is now open.
- Restraining order applications and immediate danger motions will be accepted in room 106 (counter 1) of the courthouse 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, Orders of Assistance and Pre Judgment Status Quo will be heard at ex parte at 8:30am and 1:30pm with the assigned Family Law Judges. If a hearing is requested on an Immediate Danger or pre judgment status quo order, parties will be notified and 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 resumed on June 1. Parties are contacted before TA with instruction on how to appear remotely. All trials are being set after January 1, 2021. New trial dates will be assigned at the existing Trial Assignment date. Hearings on Motions for Enforcement of PT, Status Quo, and Temporary Matters will be assigned out for hearing the next day.
- The court will be accepting and setting Enforcement of Parenting time motions and Pre and Post Judgment Status Quo 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, Motions for Complex Case/Special Set and stipulated judgments and orders.
- Civil commitment hearings will be held by phone, 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 Level 2 restrictions are no longer in effect. 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.
- Beginning August 11th, 2020, the court will begin accepting Motions for Default Orders.
- Beginning August 17th, 2020, the court will begin accepting Motions for Alternative Service.

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.

- Hearings, including dependency review hearings, permanency hearings, in-custody delinquency matters and out-of-custody delinquency matters, will be scheduled and heard. Preliminary hearings, detention hearings and shelter hearings will be held.
- Certain trials, such as dependency and termination of parental rights trials and jurisdictional trials, will resume in August 2020.
- All participants are strongly encouraged to appear remotely by telephone. Call-in numbers 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 while Level 2 restrictions are in effect.
- 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 Short Matters Docket shall resume July 20, 2020. The Court will send notices.
- 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 September 1st.
- 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 after August 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

Presiding Judge Orders can be found at:

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