

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF STATE OF OREGON
IN AND FOR POLK COUNTY

FILED
POLK COUNTY OR
2026 SEP 28
3:05

In the Matter of Updated)
Court Operations Protocol)
In Polk County)

PRESIDING JUDGE ORDER
No. 26 - 004

ORDER ESTABLISHING UPDATED
COURT APPEARANCE PROTOCOL

THE ABOVE MATTER coming before the court, sua sponte, finds that:

ORS 1.171 provides that the presiding judge of a district is the administrative authority over the circuit court of the district and authorizes exercising powers to make rules, issue orders and take other action appropriate to that exercise.

On September 1, 2023, Chief Justice issued CJO 23-028 which updated court operations directives for the Oregon state courts.

This court's Presiding Judge Order on the subject needs to be updated to align with the latest Chief Justice Order.

NOW, THEREFORE, I HEREBY ORDER that subject to the exceptions contained within this order, proceedings in Polk County Circuit Court shall be held as follows:

Courtroom 4

- All criminal appearances are in person, except the following:
 1. Out of custody pretrial conferences
 2. Show proof for completion of probation
- Initial appearances on restraining orders will be remote.
- Traffic trials will be remote.
- An attorney representing a party in FED proceedings may appear remotely with advance notice unless specifically required to appear in person by the court.

Courtrooms 1, 2 and 3

- All pretrial and scheduling conferences will be remote, unless the defendant is in custody and is being brought to the courtroom.
- All contested evidentiary hearings will be in person.

- Criminal case settlement conferences may be remote, unless the defendant is in custody.
- Contested hearings, including trials and motions, will be in person.
- Courtroom 2 juvenile proceedings shall be conducted as follows:

1. Juvenile dependency

- a. The court will continue the docket primarily by phone or remote means. This docket generally covers status conferences, limited court reviews and uncontested permanency hearings, admissions, and uncontested dispositional hearings.
- b. Contested hearings will be specially set outside of the normal Monday docket and will be in person. These include contested jurisdictional and dispositional hearings, contested permanency hearings, contested review hearings, and termination of parental rights hearings.
- c. Shelter hearings and first appearance on termination of parental rights will be in person and will be held at 4 p.m. as scheduled by the court.

2. Juvenile delinquency

- a. Regular appearances will be in person, except probation reviews and status hearings which can be completed remotely.
- b. Contested jurisdictional trials, probation violations hearings and admissions to petitions will be in person.
- c. In custody youth will continue appearing remotely.

These expectations are guidelines. Any attorney, youth or other party may seek the court's consent to deviate from these expectations by filing appropriate motion and justification in support of such motion sufficiently in advance for consideration and ruling. Further, any party or attorney may appear in person at any hearing if they wish.

This Order shall be effective on the date of this order and supersedes PJO 21-010 and any other prior orders on the same subject.

Dated this this 28 day of September 2026.



Norman R. Hill
Presiding Judge