

MAY 21 2020

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT

By Mary Herod
Deputy

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
ABILENE, LUBBOCK, AND SAN ANGELO DIVISIONS

SPECIAL ORDER NO 13-16

COURT OPERATIONS DURING NATIONAL PANDEMIC EMERGENCY

Given the public-health emergency declared by the president of the United States in response to the COVID-19 pandemic—and in light of the continued opening of the economy and the gradual return of federal employees from telework arrangements—the Court orders the following requirements to protect public health and safety. This order applies to the United States Courthouse at Abilene, the George H. Mahon Federal Building and United States Courthouse at Lubbock, and the United States Courthouse at San Angelo.

Access: The above-listed areas temporarily may not be accessed by persons who: (1) are experiencing any flu-like symptoms, shortness of breath, a fever, or other COVID-19 symptoms; (2) have traveled internationally within the last 14 days, or have had close contact with someone who has traveled internationally within the last 14 days; or (3) have been asked to self-quarantine by any hospital or health agency or have been diagnosed with or had close contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the past 14 days.

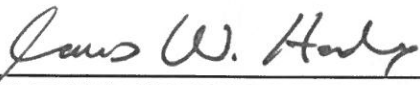
Additionally, to ensure proper distancing, and for the protection of all court participants, the U.S. Marshals Service may restrict the number of visitors in a courtroom proceeding. Any visitor who cannot access a courtroom because of this restriction will be given the opportunity to hear the proceeding from another room in the courthouse or will otherwise be accommodated. Anyone who requires service from the Court and falls into one of the restricted categories or who wishes to listen to a court proceeding should call, at least 48 hours before the proceeding, (325) 677-6311 in Abilene, (806) 472-1900 in Lubbock, and (325) 655-4506 in San Angelo.

Masks & Social Distancing: Effective May 25, 2020, each person over the age of two who seeks entry into the above-listed areas, including tenants of the building, attorneys, and criminal defendants, must wear a mask or other face covering that completely covers the person's nose and mouth at all times while in any public area of the building—unless otherwise directed by a law enforcement officer, court security officer, or Court official. Public areas include elevators, lobbies, hallways, clerks' offices, and courtrooms. Additionally, all persons in public areas must practice and permit social distancing. Law enforcement officers, protective service officers, and court security officers working for the Federal Protective Service and the U.S. Marshals Service will enforce this order and will deny entry to persons not wearing a mask or other face covering.

Any person who seeks entry into the above-listed areas without a mask or face covering may contact the office to be visited for assistance in determining what other arrangements or accommodations can be made to accomplish the business needs of the visitor without entry into the building.

This order will remain in effect until further order of the Court.

So ordered this 21st day of May, 2020.



JAMES WESLEY HENDRIX
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE