

IN THE GENERAL SESSIONS CRIMINAL COURT
OF SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

GENERAL SESSIONS CRIM
JUL 30 '20 PM 2:37
C. Edwin Coates

**Order on Division IX Scheduling, Mandatory Appearances and General
Operating Procedures from August 10, 2020 through December 31, 2020
Due to COVID-19 Pandemic**

This Order outlines the schedule, rules, and operating procedures for Division IX of the General Sessions Criminal Court through December 31, 2020. The necessity of this Order is due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the continuing positive COVID-19 tests of individuals coming to 201 Poplar. The purpose of this Order is to reduce the chances of being exposed to, or spreading of, the COVID-19 disease to any and all persons that come to 201 Poplar.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED THAT:

1. The Order of July 21, 2020 signed by the General Sessions Criminal Court Judges and attached to this Order, remains in full effect in Division IX of General Sessions Criminal Court and is to be used as a guide to all Lawyers practicing in Division IX.
2. Beginning on August 10, 2020, Division IX will begin operating on a week on and week off basis.
3. The following weeks, Division IX will be closed due to the Pandemic:

August 10, 2020
August 24, 2020
September 7, 2020
September 21, 2020
October 5, 2020
October 19, 2020
November 2, 2020
November 16, 2020
November 30, 2020
December 14, 2020
December 28, 2020




4. The following weeks, Division IX will be open:

August 3, 2020
August 17, 2020
August 31, 2020
September 14, 2020
September 28, 2020
October 12, 2020
October 26, 2020
November 9, 2020
November 23, 2020
December 7, 2020
December 21, 2020

5. All out of custody cases set the week of August 10, 2020 will be reset until the corresponding day of the week during the week of October 26, 2020.
6. All out of custody cases set the week of August 24, 2020 will be reset to the corresponding day of the week during the week of December 7, 2020.
7. All in-custody Preliminary Hearings or Trials set the week of August 10, 2020 will be reset to the corresponding day of the week of August 17, 2020.
8. All out of custody Preliminary Hearings set the week of August 10, 2020 will be reset for report the same corresponding day of the week of August 17, 2020.
9. Out of custody Arraignments set the week of August 10, 2020 and August 24, 2020 will be reset, respectively to the same corresponding day of the week of August 31, 2020 and September 14, 2020.
10. In custody Arraignments during the weeks Division IX is down, will be handled via video conference or interchange.
11. The Clerk's office of the General Sessions Court is hereby ordered to send letters to all out of custody defendants pursuant to the new dates included in this Order.
12. The Private Defense Bar and Shelby County Public Defender's Office is to use all reasonable means available to inform their existing clients of these changes.

13. All prosecutors, public defense lawyers and members of the private bar are encouraged and expected to use the weeks Division IX is down to communicate amongst themselves with the purpose of negotiating and resolving all cases that are set in the future. Defendants will be expected to have their case resolved in some manner on their first report date. If it is not resolved, it will be expected by the Court to set for Preliminary Hearing or Trial.
14. The Court will not be tolerant of any lawyers or defendants who are not diligent in communicating with the other lawyers with the intended purpose of resolving their cases.
15. During the down weeks, the Court expects the prosecutors assigned to Division IX to make themselves available, via online communications, with the defense bar to discuss pending cases.
16. Both the prosecution and the defense bar are expected to use the down weeks to communicate with each other regarding upcoming cases. The Court will not be tolerant of the attorneys coming in on report dates without both sides having made efforts at contacting the other side of the case. Both the prosecution and defense bar are expected to make themselves available and also make attempts to contact opposing counsel.
17. Tuesday afternoon Mental Health Court will continue to operate via online video communication every week during the time this Order is in effect.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED this 30th day of July, 2020.


Judge Gerald D. Skahan
General Sessions Criminal Court
Division IX