

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE**

FILED
CLERK'S OFFICE
United States District Court
Eastern District of Tennessee
Date: *Nov 16, 2020, 1:13 pm*

IN RE: RESTRICTIONS ON)
VISITORS TO THE COURTHOUSE) SO-20-19
DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC)
) Chief District Judge
) Travis R. McDonough

STANDING ORDER

After consideration of public health guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, and state and local public health offices, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee has determined that in the interest of public health and safety, the following courthouse visitor restrictions are necessary.¹

Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the following visitors may not enter any courthouse in the Eastern District of Tennessee:

1. Visitors who have been advised to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital or health agency within the last 14 days;
2. Visitors who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or told to presume they have COVID-19 by a health professional within the last 14 days;
3. Visitors who have had contact in the last 14 days with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or told to presume they have COVID-19 by a health

¹ This order shall apply in its entirety to all visitors in all public spaces within the courthouse building, including courtrooms. This order shall also apply to all individuals employed by any of the building tenants while present in public spaces within the courthouse building, including courtrooms, except that tenant employees will not be required to have their temperature checked by use of the contactless temperature scanner. However, this order shall not apply within a tenant's individual space. Instead, the tenant's individual policies shall apply to all employees and visitors to the tenant's space.

- professional, unless the diagnosis was more than 14 days ago and the person diagnosed has been symptom-free for the past 72 hours;
4. Visitors who have had cough, shortness of breath, fever of 100.4 or higher, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, or extreme fatigue within the last 14 days, unless the symptoms are attributable to another known condition;
 5. Visitors who have returned from international travel, or a cruise ship or a river voyage within the past 14 days; and
 6. Visitors who have been released from a federal, state or local jail, prison or other correctional institution within the last 14 days, except those who are reporting to be fitted with a location monitoring device or those under halfway house supervision.

Any visitor attempting to enter in violation of these protocols will be denied entry by a Court Security Officer.

Any visitor who has business in one of the courthouses of the Eastern District of Tennessee, but who cannot enter because of this order, should do the following:

1. Visitors who are represented should contact their attorney immediately upon being denied entrance.
2. Attorneys or pro se litigants who are scheduled to appear in court before a judge should contact the judge's chambers directly. Contact information is available on the Court's website.
3. Visitors who are scheduled to meet with a Probation Officer should contact the Probation Office at (423) 638-8121 for Greeneville, (423) 752-5193 for Chattanooga, and (865) 545-4001 for Knoxville.

4. Jurors should call (423) 639-3105 for Greeneville, (423) 752-5200 for Chattanooga, and (865) 545-4228 for Knoxville.
5. Visitors having any other business with the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee should contact the Clerk's Office at (423) 639-3105 for Greeneville, (423) 752-5200 for Chattanooga and Winchester, and (865) 545-4228 for Knoxville.
6. Visitors having business with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee should contact the Bankruptcy Clerk's Office at (423) 787-0113 for Greeneville, (423) 752-5163 for Chattanooga and Winchester, and (865) 545-4279 for Knoxville.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that every visitor who comes to one of the courthouses of the Eastern District of Tennessee for any reason must pass through the following entry screening process:

1. Have their temperature taken, using a contactless temperature scanner. Any visitor with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher will not be permitted to enter the courthouse.
2. Wear a mask that:
 - Is made with at least 2 layers of breathable material;
 - Fully covers the person's nose and mouth and is secure under the chin;
 - Fits snugly but comfortably against the side of the face; and
 - Is secured with ties or ear loops. (Face shields, neck gaiters, open-chin triangle bandanas and face coverings containing valves, mesh material or holes of any kind are not permitted).

Masks will be available for anyone not wearing a mask compliant with this order.

3. Apply hand sanitizer, which will be available at all courthouse entrances.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that while in the courthouse, all visitors must comply with the following rules:

1. You must wear a mask compliant with this order in all public areas of the courthouse (including hallways, public counters, elevators, restrooms, and courtrooms), unless specifically permitted by the presiding judge in a courtroom.
2. You must adhere to safe social distancing rules, by standing or sitting at least six feet away from other individuals. You must abide by markings on floors and benches indicating where may stand or sit. If you are standing in line, you must keep six feet away from the person in front of you and behind you, unless you are taking care of a small child or assisting someone with special needs.
3. You must abide by all health and hygiene signage throughout the courthouses, including signage regarding masks, social distancing, occupancy restrictions and hand washing.

Any visitor who fails or refuses to abide by these rules will be required to leave the courthouse immediately.

This order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until further notice. To the extent this order contradicts any of the Court's prior orders regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, this order supersedes the language in the prior order.

SO ORDERED.



TRAVIS R. MCDONOUGH
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE