

JEFFERSON CIRCUIT COURT
DIVISION FOUR (4)

GENERAL ORDER OF MARCH 7, 2022
REGARDING PROCEDURES & PROTOCOLS

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Today, Chief Judge Perry entered an Order that facial coverings are not required to enter the Jefferson County Court Complex as of March 8. This position is consistent with CDC guidance, Kentucky Supreme Court directives, and local circumstances (all of which are subject to reversal if infection rates rise again). The Order goes on to say that facial coverings will continue to be required in the Ben Shobe Jury Assembly Hall and that requirements for individual courtrooms will be at the discretion of the presiding judge. The Court provides the following guidance on Div. Four's stance, which supersedes its previous Order from last summer:

1. This Order is limited to Division Four (4) of Jefferson Circuit Court.

Please refer to jeffersoncircuitcourt.com for guidance as to other divisions.

2. Generally stated, persons appearing in Div. Four will *not* be required to wear a facial covering. With the exception of persons testifying, anyone appearing may chose to wear a mask if they believe their personal health circumstances make doing so prudent.

3. Persons who are concerned about a threat to their health by being around others who are unmasked, may request that everyone in the courtroom be required to wear a mask and the Court will consider that request on an individual basis although the presumption will be that such concerns could be otherwise

ameliorated by telephonic appearance, social distancing, confirmation of vaccination status, etc.

4. This Court's civil motion hours and docket calls will continue to be conducted in a hybrid fashion going forward. All civil litigants and counsel may elect to appear in-person or via telephone unless the Court has determined that circumstances make an in-person hearing necessary. To appear telephonically, *call 1-848-777-1212 and enter Conference ID Number 7675632#*. Please follow the prompts to join the conference. You will not be announced. There are likely to be other parties with causes to be heard on the line at the same time so please set your phone on mute while waiting for your case to be called by the judge.

5. Conversely, broadly stated, criminal motion hours and docket calls will be conducted in-person unless the Court has determined, at counsel's request, that a telephonic hearing is acceptable. If appearing by phone, one must follow the process described above in ¶4. In-custody criminal defendants will be brought over to court to the extent resources allow.

6. The following persons may elect to appear remotely:

- a) persons with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 as set out by the CDC;
- b) persons in quarantine;
- c) persons diagnosed with COVID-19 within the preceding 14 days;
- d) persons not fully vaccinated and who have had close contact with someone diagnoses with COVID-19; and
- e) persons the CDC recommends should limit their interactions with the public.

7. Counsel should be aware that the Kentucky Supreme Court continues to refine its directives regarding court operations and can be expected to modify its directives in the future. Any such modification(s), to the extent it is in conflict with this Order, will supersede this Order. Furthermore, counsel should expect that a process used in another county may not have application to Jefferson County and even a process used in another division of Jefferson Circuit Court may not have application here. **If in doubt, ask!**

03/07/2022

/S/
CHARLES L. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
JUDGE, DIVISION FOUR