

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI**

IN RE:)
COURTHOUSE OPERATIONS)
DUE TO COVID-19 RESPONSE)

ORDER

WHEREAS this Court continues to evaluate its response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and recognizes the need to assist in the preservation of public safety and health while effectively administering justice within the Courthouses of this District during this period of national emergency;

NOW THEREFORE, the Court hereby adopts the following Order:

This Court's prior Order re. Courthouse Operations [Dated May 29, 2020](#) and any subsequent Orders or statements regarding entry into the courthouses of this District are rescinded, and are replaced with the following Order:

1. Public entry to all federal courthouses in the Eastern District shall be restricted to the main lobby on the first floor, except as specified in this Order to allow the courts and agencies within these courthouses to meet their constitutional duties.

2. All Courts and agencies within the courthouses of this district are open by appointment only, except as follows:

a. Persons attending a scheduled proceeding may enter beyond the main lobby of the courthouses of this district;

b. Persons with permission to enter from a judge of this district or from the head or designee of any agency housed in the courthouses; and

c. The Rush Hudson Limbaugh Courthouse in Cape Girardeau is open to the public, provided that the number of persons entering may be limited, in order to enforce

social distancing, by the Court, by a Court Security Officer, or by an agency within that agency's space.

3. All persons within all courthouses shall observe social distancing standards (6-foot radius per person) except when necessary for the conduct of business as directed by a judge, agency head, or designee of a judge or agency head. A judge, agency head, or designee of any agency may enforce limits on the number of persons within any portion of their designated courthouse space consistent with social distancing standards (6-foot radius per person), or as otherwise deemed necessary by the judge or agency without further Order of this Court. This Court and General Services Administration will create and publish occupancy standards for all elevators in all courthouses and may modify the elevator standards without further Order of this Court. All persons shall be required to follow elevator occupancy standards.

4. In order to be admitted beyond the main lobby of the courthouses, all persons authorized to enter under Subsection 2:

a. Must verify upon request to a Court Security Officer that they have:

i. Not been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital or health agency within the last two weeks;

ii. Not been diagnosed with, or have had contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last two weeks; and

iii. No fever, cough, or shortness of breath; and

b. Must wear a mask or face covering over their nose and mouth when in any common area of any Courthouse within this District.

5. Anyone who cannot enter or is unwilling to enter any courthouse in violation of the protocols in subsection 4 will be referred by a Court Security Officer to the court or agency with whom the person has business, in the manner directed by the court or agency.

6. Each court and agency shall also furnish in the main lobby of the courthouses of this district, and on their respective websites, and to the Court Security Officers, information and remote services to enable the public to access the services of that court or agency in the manner directed by the court or agency and as authorized by law. Such information may include but is not limited to drop boxes for paper filing; remote filing and payment options; telephone and e-mail contact information during business hours and non-business hours; and, web address information. A current list of the information referenced in this subsection is attached to this Order and may be amended by each agency without further Order of this Court. This list shall be posted and made available to the public in the main lobby of the courthouses within this district.

SO ORDERED this 13th day of July, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sippel" followed by a flourish and "Sippel".

Rodney W. Sippel
Chief United States District Judge