

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT**

IN RE:)
)
PANDEMIC EMERGENCY, REDUCED HOURS,)
ESSENTIAL STAFFING.)

Adm.Order 2020-01

DISTRICT COURT
FILED
2020 APR 20 P 12:37
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

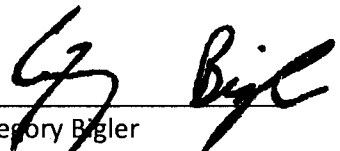
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

The MCN District Court in step with the concerns and directives of the Executive Branch and Principal Chief issues the following regards the ongoing Pandemic Corona Virus.

The health, safety and continuance of our people is foremost in our minds. The best information available indicates that at this time the Muscogee Nation expect continuing concerns about the Corona Virus over the next several weeks. As has been seen around Indian country Indian Nations and their citizens have been most susceptible to this pandemic. We consider this risk serious and perhaps unprecedented risk to our people since our removal from the east in the 1830s. We do not wish to see any of our people put at more risk due to requirements of court hearings and appearances. Thus, to protect the public, defendants and plaintiffs, law enforcement, attorneys, social workers and our staff:

1. The Court continues its previously issued order of March 17th, 2020, regards continuing non-emergency court matters and extends such order till after May 4th, 2020. At that time the Court will revisit re-opening based upon the Nation's directives and the safety of our citizens.
2. The court is presently operating on reduced staff and hours, from 9am till 1pm.
3. There will only be one Clerk present to protect the Clerks safety so delays may be expected in answering or responding to calls. The Court does not provide individual citizens attorneys. If an emergency exists, please contact the MCN Lighthouse police department, the Family Violence Prevention Program or Children and Family Services.
4. The Mound Building housing the Court is closed to the public. If an emergency filing is necessary the party may contact the court at 918-758-1400 and staff will provide instructions.
5. Attorneys may continue to file non-emergency matters, by digital or mail means only, with arrangements for payment of any filing fees upon consultation with the Clerks. However, any hearing or orders regarding such filings will not be set **till after** the Court reopens post-pandemic emergency. Except upon extraordinary grant of the Judge assigned, any responses to such filings are tolled till further notice of the Court. Such grant will not be lightly given.
6. Agreed to orders of parties will be allowed and encouraged. Contested hearings are at best difficult to conduct digitally thus except for extra-ordinary needs will not be held till re-opening.
7. The *Doing Business in Indian Country* has been cancelled. Fees paid will be refunded. We ask your patience on refunds as the Nations finance office is also on reduced staff. The Court will look at feasibility of a one day fall CLE dependent on River Spirit Casino availability.
8. The Court and our staff ask for your consideration in this extraordinary time. We will continue to look at ways we can continue our Court functions under the current circumstances. We also ask that you look out for those in need and that we all offer what assistance we can to those most in need.

Issued this April 20th, 2020.



Gregory Bigler
Administrative Judge
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court