

THE DISTRICT COURT OF SHAWNEE COUNTY, KANSAS  
THE THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
Administrative Order No. 20-06

FILED BY CLERK  
KS. DISTRICT COURT  
THIRD JUDICIAL DIST.  
TOPEKA, KS

2020 MAY 29 P 3:33

**ORDER REQUIRING FACE COVERING  
AND SOCIAL DISTANCING FOR COURT BUSINESS**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and the Shawnee County Health Department continue to recommend that all persons wear face masks and maintain social distancing of at least six feet from all other persons in order to control the spread of the Novel Coronavirus. In Kansas Supreme Court Administrative Order 2020-PR-054, dated May 27, 2020, the Supreme Court has set out requirements for safely reopening courtrooms and court offices to the physical presence of the public and staff. This Administrative Order is entered in order to protect the health and safety of the public, court personnel, judicial officers, attorneys, litigants, witnesses, and law enforcement personnel.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

**All persons entering the courthouse to conduct court business must wear a face covering at all times and maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet from all other persons to the extent possible.**

Face coverings may include a mask, scarf or any other cloth material that covers both the nose and mouth. The material must be dense enough to limit a person's saliva and respiratory secretions from entering or exiting the mask. All persons present in the courthouse to conduct court business must also maintain social distancing of at least six feet to the greatest extent possible unless they have a legitimate need to be closer than six feet. Examples of the need to be closer include an attorney conferring with his/her client or co-counsel or an interpreter sitting next to a party or witness.

Judicial officers have the discretion in their individual courtrooms and environs to allow any person, including themselves, to remove face coverings for periods of time for purposes such as ensuring the court reporter and/or electronic recording device can clearly report or record the proceedings or any other communication. A judicial officer exercising this discretion should ensure that proper social distancing of six feet is maintained to the greatest extent possible. Since judicial officers generally are situated six or more feet from other participants in the courtroom, they retain discretion to determine whether they will utilize a face mask when conducting proceedings.

Any person without a face covering may be denied entry into or the opportunity to remain in a courtroom, adjacent hallway or common area, judicial chambers, offices of administrative assistants and court reporters, offices of Court Services, offices of the Clerk of the

District Court and/or any District Court Administrative office. Any person who refuses to wear a face covering after being directed to do so by a judicial officer or law enforcement officer may be removed from the courthouse for failure to comply with this Order.

Any person who has a valid reason for not wearing a face covering may request an exemption from this Order. Exemption requests must be presented to the judicial officer in the courtroom or office the person is requesting to enter. The request will be granted or denied by the judicial officer at his or her sole discretion. If the exemption is granted, the person must still maintain proper social distancing of six feet. If the request is denied and the person refuses to wear a mask, the person may be removed from the courtroom, court offices and environs.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

BY ORDER OF THE COURT this 29<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard D. Anderson", written over a horizontal line.

Richard D. Anderson  
Chief Judge