
TEMPORARY provisions regarding Keith County District Court hearings:

1. Hearings on criminal cases will continue to be scheduled at 8:30 AM on motion days.
2. A waiver of arraignment may be filed on any case, except for class I felonies.
3. If nothing of substance is going to happen at a criminal status hearing, file a motion to continue prior to the hearing.
4. Criminal defendants who are not incarcerated will have their cases heard at 8:30 AM on motion days. After those hearings are completed the jail will be contacted to bring to court the defendants that are incarcerated. It is anticipated that will occur at approximately 9:30 AM.
5. Civil cases will begin after the criminal cases have been completed, however that will not be prior to 10:00 AM. Litigants and attorneys who are at court for civil hearings will not be permitted in the courtroom prior to the conclusion of the criminal cases.
6. Depending upon the number of people present at court, restrictions will be placed on who is admitted to the courtroom. You can anticipate that attorneys and parties involved in civil cases will not be admitted to the courtroom prior to the hearing on their case, and will be required to leave the courtroom as soon their case is completed. It is likely that the same rule will be applied to hearings in criminal cases.
7. Motions in civil cases that do not require evidence should be scheduled to be heard by telephone. Because it will not be possible to have the telephone hearings at 8:00 AM on motion days, the court will schedule additional times for the telephone hearings. That may be on the afternoon of motion days.
8. The purpose of these changes is to restrict or limit the number of people in the courtroom at any time. Because the situation with the Corona virus is so fluid, it may be necessary to change these provisions with little or no notice. We will try to do everything we can to keep the court open ^{AND} running smoothly, and appreciate your patience and consideration. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to contact us.

Richard Birch, District Judge

Michael Piccolo, District Judge