



IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
AMARILLO DIVISION

**Special Order 13-15**

**STANDING RULES FOR COURTROOM PROCEEDINGS  
IN THE J. MARVIN JONES FEDERAL BUILDING AND  
MARY LOU ROBINSON COURTHOUSE**

In accordance with Special Order 13-5 and Special Order 13-6 issued by Chief Judge Barbara Lynn on March 13, 2020, to the extent that in-person hearings, sentencings, or other courtroom proceedings must occur from the date of this Order until further order of the Court, the undersigned judge has determined that special rules should be adopted for all proceedings in the J. Marvin Jones Federal Building and Mary Lou Robinson Courthouse in Amarillo, Texas (“Amarillo Courtroom”). See Special Order 13-5 ¶4, at 2; Special Order 13-6, at 1. Accordingly, in consideration of the COVID-19 virus, CDC recommendations, and public health and safety, the following rules will apply to proceedings in the Amarillo Courtroom until further order of the Court:

1. Courthouse:

- a. Individuals experiencing any flu-like symptoms (including shortness of breath, fever, sneezing, or coughing) or other COVID-19 symptoms shall be denied entrance to the courthouse.
- b. Individuals who are currently diagnosed with COVID-19 and remain contagious, or who have been asked to self-quarantine by any hospital or health agency, or who have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 within the past 14 days shall be denied entrance into the courthouse.
- c. Court Security Officers and/or United States Marshals (“Security Personnel”) at their reasonable discretion may deny entrance to the courthouse to limit crowds.
- d. Other than court personnel, individuals entering the courthouse must wear face masks in all common areas and are recommended to wear other personal protective equipment that may help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

2. Amarillo Courtroom:

- a. No more than ten spectators may be seated in the gallery portion of the courtroom at any time. Security Personnel at their reasonable discretion may deny entrance to the Amarillo Courtroom to enforce this provision.
- b. Individuals seated in the gallery portion of the Amarillo Courtroom should always practice social distancing by attempting to remain at least six feet away from all other individuals.
- c. If asked to wait in the hall outside the Amarillo Courtroom, individuals should always practice social distancing by not forming groups or positioning themselves close to others.
- d. Once they are seated in their designated locations for judicial proceedings, parties and their counsel may remove their face masks until they re-enter common areas.

Parties with pending hearings who cannot comply with these temporary provisions may request a continuance by identifying specific limitations preventing their participation. Disrupting courtroom proceedings or failing to comply with this notice may result in a finding that one is in contempt of Court and/or in removal from the building.

**SO ORDERED.**

May 18, 2020.



MATTHEW J. KACSMARYK  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE