



For Immediate Release

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New Requirements and Procedures for Entrance to Courthouse Beginning May 18

In response to the expected influx of visitors to the Courthouse when the Tulsa County District Courts reopen on Monday, May 18, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is announcing several new building access requirements that will be in place for an initial two week-period only (effective May 18 through May 29, 2020).

“We want to keep our employees and citizens safe as the court systems reopen in an old building that is ill-suited for social distancing,” said Commissioner Stan Sallee. “We’re confident these efforts, paired with those of the District Courts, will help minimize the numbers in the Courthouse. We’re also committed to continuously re-evaluating these restrictions throughout the two-week period to identify when they can be lifted.”

- 1. Masks Required to Enter.** At the direction of the CDC; Dr. Bruce Dart, Director of the Tulsa Health Department; and the Oklahoma Supreme Court, everyone will be required to wear a mask when entering the Courthouse.
- 2. Plaza Entrance for Court Participants Only.** Located on the north side of the Courthouse, the Plaza Entrance will be used exclusively for entrance by court participants, including attorneys, parties, victims, and witnesses. Family members or those not directly involved in a court proceeding will be prohibited from entering the Courthouse. Visitors will be required to discuss their court need with court staff located at the Plaza entrance before being allowed entrance into the Courthouse.
- 3. Denver Entrance for County Personnel and Citizens with County Business Only.** The Denver Entrance, located on the east side of the Courthouse, will be used exclusively for entrance by County personnel and those citizens who need to conduct County-related business, including with the Court Clerk, County Assessor, County Treasurer, and County Clerk. Attorneys may also enter on the Denver side of the Courthouse if needed. Personnel and citizens will be directed to use the escalators to reduce use of the elevators, where social distancing can be difficult.

Signage will be posted at all entrances to ensure the appropriate entrance is used, and Tulsa County Sheriff’s Deputies may deny access to the Courthouse and redirect visitors if the wrong entrance is attempted to be used. Additional signage will be posted outside and inside elevators to ensure social distancing and hygiene practices are followed. Elevators will be limited to a reduced number of passengers allowed at one time.

The BOCC is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Tulsa County Courthouse and has exclusive control over public access. However, the BOCC is not responsible for Court Operations. Any and all procedures outlined in District Courts’ Administrative Order, and stipulated by the Oklahoma Supreme Court, must be followed when entering Courtrooms.

District Court Reopening Processes & Requirements

- [Tulsa County District Court Administrative Order Phase One](#). NOTE: Out-of-custody criminal defendants, small claims court, and those who are supposed to appear in traffic court do not need to appear during this timeframe; new dates will be provided through the Oklahoma State Courts Network (OSCN) or through attorneys.
- [Oklahoma Supreme Court Third Emergency Joint Order Regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster](#)

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