

IN THE THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF IOWA

IN THE MATTER OF: MENTAL HEALTH HEARINGS DURING COVID-19	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020_4-10_#2
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The Iowa Department of Public Health's anticipated peak for the novel coronavirus/COVID 19 is the end of April 2020.

In response to the State of Public Health Disaster Emergency and the April 2, 2020, Supervisory Order of Chief Justice Susan Christensen, the court continues to carefully monitor the public health situation, balancing the need to take measures to reduce the spread of the virus, with its commitment to conducting business as usual.

The court directs and authorizes all serious mental impairment and substance-related disorder proceedings to be conducted telephonically. This Administrative Order is issued pursuant to the April 2 Supervisory Order specifically authorizing judicial officers to direct that an emergency matter be conducted by telephone. This Administrative Order is intended to address the current public health emergency while also preserving and recognizing the identification of hospitalization proceedings as emergency matters in the April 2 Supervisory Order and the ability of the respondent and applicant to present evidence, to be present, and to participate (telephonically) at the time of the hearing in accordance with Iowa Code Sections 125.82 and 229.12 and Rules 12.19 and 13.19.

No person who has an elevated risk of transmitting the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 may personally attend any hearing or other proceeding without prior authorization from the court.

Nothing contained in this order prevents a court from altering, amending, modifying, clarifying, or enforcing court orders or the manner in which a hearing is held within its sound discretion and consistent with the laws of the state. Further, this order does not limit the ability of the court to hear and address emergency matters on a case-by-case basis in the discretion of the court.

The Clerk of Court shall provide the applicants with the call-in information for the hearing. In addition, the notice shall provide in mental health commitment proceedings the contact information for the county attorney and mental health advocate.

FOR WOODBURY COUNTY-- The following call-in information should be included:

At the date and time scheduled for hearing, you must do the following:

- Dial 1-866-685-1580
- When prompted, enter the following conference code: 0009991965 (press # after entering the number)
- The system will ask if you are the leader. You are not – do not press the * key
- The system will ask you to state your first and last name
- You will be put on hold until the judge enters the conference call; stay on the line until the judge enters the call

It is your responsibility to call in for the hearing. The judge will not call you. If you do not call using the above instructions, you will not be able to participate in the hearing. If you have technical difficulties connecting at the time of hearing, please call (712) 279-6494.

Woodbury County attorney: (712) 279-6516

Woodbury County Mental Health Advocate Cindy Wiemold: (712) 279-6018

DUANE E. HOFFMEYER, Chief Judge of the
Third Judicial District of Iowa