

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

---

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
PERTAINING TO CERTAIN  
DISTRICT COURT SUBURBAN OPERATIONS  
AND ACCESS DURING COVID-19  
EMERGENCY**

---

**WHEREAS**, On March 13, 2020, the Minnesota Governor Tim Walz declared a peacetime state of emergency pursuant to the issuance of Executive Order 20-01 due to the worldwide spread of COVID-19, also referred to as the Coronavirus and has issued subsequent orders including a stay at home directive extending until May 18, 2020 (Emergency Executive Order No. 20-48) (Apr. 30, 2020); and

**WHEREAS**, on May 1, 2020, the Minnesota Supreme Court Administrative Order ADM20-8001 was issued in response to Emergency Executive Order No. 20-48 to provide direction for the continuing operations of the Judicial Branch, including the district courts; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 484.69, subd. 3, the chief judge of the judicial district has general administrative authority over the courts in the judicial district; and

**WHEREAS**, under the Supreme Court's Administrative Order, at present only in-custody defendants charged with misdemeanors and gross misdemeanors are appearing on calendars for suburban locations in Hennepin County; and

**WHEREAS**, these in-custody defendants can be seen on a timely basis in courtrooms at the Public Safety Facility; and

**WHEREAS**, Hennepin County has closed its services at the suburban Brookdale and Ridgedale locations (libraries and service centers); and

**WHEREAS**, in an effort to protect the public, as well as court participants and court staff pursuant to the Order of the Minnesota Supreme Court, by ensuring only persons necessary for court proceedings or have essential business with the court enter our courthouses, while ensuring that constitutional rights are preserved;

Based on the foregoing, this Court makes the following:

**ORDER**

1. The Brookdale and Ridgedale Court locations, including the courtrooms and court counter, shall temporarily close beginning Monday March 23, 2020 and shall remain closed until Monday, June 1, 2020.
  
2. In-custody cases regularly scheduled at these locations shall be heard on the morning calendar at the Public Safety Facility, Courtroom 141, 401 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street Minneapolis, Minnesota.
  
3. This Order supersedes the Orders issued on March 20, 2020 and April 9, 2020.

Dated: May 1, 2020

**BY THE COURT:**

---

Ivy S. Bernhardson  
Chief Judge  
Fourth Judicial District