

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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

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**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

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the Minnesota Supreme Court Administrative Order ADM20-8001 concerning the continuing operations of the courts of the state of Minnesota under a statewide peacetime declaration of emergency providing courthouses will remain open, discouraging *non-essential* visits to courthouses, promoting the use of social distancing and other mitigation factors for individuals within the courthouses, and requiring that no person who has an elevated risk of transmitting the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 attend any in-court hearing or proceeding; 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 the Division 2, 3, and 4 calendars at suburban locations in Hennepin County, which result in very small calendars; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the 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 continuing until Monday April 20, 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.

Dated: March 20, 2020

**BY THE COURT:**

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Ivy S. Bernhardson  
Chief Judge  
Fourth Judicial District