



June 2, 2020

McMinnville Municipal Court Reopening Status

During stay home, stay safe and, more recently, in Phase I reopening, the Municipal Court has taken a flexible, evolving approach to operating in the time of Covid-19. As Yamhill County moves into Phase II reopening, court staff is preparing for the re-opening of the City Hall and Municipal Court (ordering supplies, designing new traffic patterns and making targeted modifications to the buildings).

Remote Court for traffic and misdemeanor violations began on May 20, 2020. Judge Kaufman Noble's new Temporary Order, which went into effect June 1, 2020, extends use of remote Court through the month of June. We are evaluating the effectiveness of remote court operations and looking to guidance specifically related to judicial proceedings during Phase II to inform how and when we will add back in-person Court appearances.

Court staff continue to be available to answer questions from the public and carry out Court business M-F via phone and email. We have enacted rotating remote-onsite schedules to limit the number of staffers in the City Hall at the same time to achieve safe social distancing in the small workspace. The opening of City Hall is being prepared for in conjunction with Court activities but we are able to be flexible and these two operations may open to the public on independent timelines.

Details on the updated temporary order:

Appearances: will be held by remote means either by video or telephonically; those wanting to appear on traffic citations must contact the court no later than one week before their scheduled appearance date for further instructions

Bench probation condition questions: people are directed to first contact the program offering the service for compliance information. Contact the court for further guidance

Bench Warrants: will continue to be cite and release with a court date after 07/01/20

Community Service: deadline for those who have due dates that expire during the declaration of emergency period are extended through 07/01/20

Deferred Sentences: deadline for final payment for those due to expire during the declaration of emergency period is extended through 07/01/20

DUII diversions: Motions to Extend are available on the website and can be filed with the court by mail, email or fax

Financial obligations: court staff may grant an extension to any person who contacts the court and requests an extension through 07/01/20

Driver license suspensions: we will not send any delinquent accounts to DMV for suspension before 07/01/20

Reinstate payment agreements: Through 07/01/20, RPA's will continue to be allowed with no money down, minimum of \$50/month with balance to be paid off within one year