

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 20-16

Limiting Public and Media Access

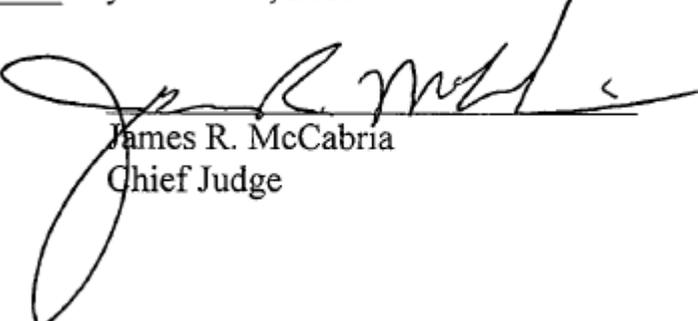
Administrative Order 20-13 addresses who may enter the courtrooms and/or adjacent hallways as it relates to parties, their attorneys/assistants and witnesses. This Order addresses permission to enter courtrooms and/or adjacent hallways for members of the public and the media. Until further order of the Court, and for the same reasons stated in Administrative Order 20-13 and 20-15, the following administrative order is hereby entered:

- 1) This Court recognizes that the Public and Press have a qualified First Amendment right of access to court proceedings. The Court also takes seriously its responsibility to administer the law with due regard for the balance of the rights of litigants, the public and the Court's ability to protect the integrity and safety of the proceedings.
- 2) With concerns for public health risks increasing on a daily basis, and with the goal of tailoring restrictions in the most narrow way to protect the balance of such interests, members of the media shall be permitted access to the courtrooms and adjacent hallways without special restriction. Except for criminal jury trials, members of the public shall not be permitted entry to courtrooms or adjacent hallways, except that, any person requesting such access may contact the Division judge in which the proceedings are scheduled and make application for authority to attend. Each judge shall give due consideration to such requests and make timely response to same
- 3) All persons may be subject to inquiry at point of entry about their recent/current health condition, to include recent travel schedule or other risk factors. Court security may restrict persons from entering the courtrooms or adjacent hallways to perform such questioning

and for such time as it takes to make a reasonable determination of whether permitting entry creates a risk to the health and/or well-being of others present in the courthouse.

This order is made and is effective this 13 day of March, 2020.

13 day of March, 2020.



James R. McCabria
Chief Judge