

Emergency Operations Policy

Purpose:

This section outlines the procedures for the continued operation of County Criminal Court #11 in the event of building closures due to inclement weather, pandemics, or other long-term emergencies.

Scope:

This policy applies to all court operations and proceedings that may be affected by emergency closures of the courthouse.

Policy Statement:

In the event that the courthouse is closed due to inclement weather, a pandemic, or other long-term emergencies, County Criminal Court #11 will transition to the virtual platform Court Call. This platform will allow the court to continue its operations, enabling defendants, whether in jail or out on bond, to communicate with the court and litigate their cases remotely.

Procedures:**1. Transition to Virtual Court:**

Upon the closure of the courthouse, all scheduled court proceedings will transition to Court Call, the designated virtual platform for the court.

Court Call allows access to court proceedings via phone or computer from anywhere within the United States.

2. Notification:

The court staff will notify all parties, including attorneys, defendants, and relevant court personnel, of the transition to Court Call as soon as the decision is made.

Information on how to access Court Call will be provided to all parties, ensuring that everyone involved in the case is able to participate remotely.

3. Participation:

Defendants in jail will be connected to Court Call through arrangements made by the jail staff in coordination with the court.

Defendants out on bond and all other participants are responsible for accessing Court Call at their scheduled times via phone or computer.

It is the responsibility of the parties to ensure they have the necessary technology and access to participate in the virtual proceedings.

4. Continuity of Operations:

The court will operate as closely as possible to its regular schedule, with cases being heard at their previously assigned times, adjusted as necessary for the virtual format.

The court will maintain all usual procedures, ensuring that justice is administered without undue delay.

5. Technical Support:

The court will provide technical support for participants unfamiliar with Court Call or experiencing difficulties accessing the platform. Contact information for support will be included in the notification.

Responsibility:

The court staff is responsible for coordinating the transition to Court Call and ensuring that all parties are informed and able to participate.

Attorneys, defendants, and other participants are responsible for ensuring they can access Court Call and are prepared for their virtual hearings.

This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary to reflect changes in emergency procedures, virtual platforms, or court practices.