

**IN THE GENERAL SESSIONS COURT FOR DAVIDSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE  
AT NASHVILLE**

IN RE: COVID-19

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**ORDER FROM THE PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE GENERAL SESSIONS COURT**

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Comes the Honorable Lynda F. Jones., the Presiding Judge of the Davidson County General Sessions Court and hereby enters the following Order for the protection of the general public and courthouse personnel.

The Center for Disease Control has advised people to take precautions in light of the COVID-19 virus outbreak and noted that the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. Under the statutory and inherent authority, as well as the general jurisdiction of the General Sessions Court, the following provisions are adopted for the Davidson County General Sessions Court until the expiration or termination of the Tennessee Supreme Court Covid-19 Order. Therefore, effective immediately the use of a signed Declaration by a petitioner in compliance with Tenn. R. Civ. Pro. Rule 72 may be substituted for the notary oath for any petition for orders of protection filed in the General Sessions Court. Additionally, no appearance or further oath shall be required for the initial request of an *ex parte* order of protection filed in General Sessions Court. The Judicial Officer shall make the determination of whether an *ex parte* order of protection shall issue solely on review of the pleadings filed requesting the Orders of Protection.

It is so **ORDERED**.

**ENTERED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020.**

**Lynda F. Jones Electronic Signature**  
**Presiding Judge Lynda Jones, Division IX**