

NOTICE:
RESTRICTIONS UPON ENTRY INTO UNITED STATES COURTHOUSES IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

Please be advised that [Standing Order 21-12](#) was entered on August 4, 2021, by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee, which provides as follows with respect to entry into United States courthouses in this district:

Visitor Restrictions to Courthouse Buildings

Visitors¹ may not enter any courthouse building in the Eastern District of Tennessee if, within the last fourteen days, they have:

1. Been advised to self-quarantine by a doctor, hospital, or health agency;
2. Been diagnosed with COVID-19 or told to presume they have COVID-19 by a health professional;
3. Had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or told to presume they have COVID-19 by a health professional, unless the diagnosis was more than fourteen days ago and the person diagnosed has been symptom-free for the past seventy-two hours or the exposed visitor has been diagnosed with and recovered from COVID-19 in the last ninety days or has been fully vaccinated;²
4. Had cough, shortness of breath, fever of 100.4 or higher, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, or extreme fatigue, unless the symptoms are attributable to another known condition; or

¹ “Visitors” are defined as any individuals entering any courthouse building in the Eastern District of Tennessee who are not tenants or employees of any of the tenants in any of the courthouse buildings in the district.

² An individual is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after the second dose in a two-dose series or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine.

5. Have been released from a federal, state, or local jail, prison, or other correctional institution, except those who are reporting to be fitted with a location monitoring device or those under halfway house supervision.

Any visitor attempting to enter in violation of these protocols will be denied entry by a Court Security Officer.

When entering any one of the courthouses in the Eastern District of Tennessee for any reason, all visitors must also have their temperature taken, using a contactless temperature scanner. Any visitor with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher will not be permitted to enter the courthouse.³

Any visitor who has business in one of the courthouses of the Eastern District of Tennessee, but who cannot enter because of these restrictions, should do the following:

1. Visitors who are represented should contact their attorney immediately upon being denied entrance.
2. Attorneys or pro se litigants who are scheduled to appear in court before a judge should contact the judge's chambers directly. Contact information is available on the Court's website, www.tneb.uscourts.gov.
3. Visitors having business with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee should contact the Bankruptcy Clerk's office at (423) 787-0113 for Greeneville, (423) 752-5163 for Chattanooga and Winchester, and (865) 545-4279 for Knoxville.

All visitors to the bankruptcy court must wear a mask regardless of vaccination status.

The mask must:

1. Be made with at least two layers of breathable material;

³ In the Howard J. Baker, Jr. United States Courthouse in Knoxville, only the rotunda entrance will require temperature screening.

2. Fully cover the person's nose and mouth and be secure under the chin;
3. Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face; and
4. Be secured with ties or ear loops. (Face shields, neck gaiters, open-chin triangle bandanas and face coverings containing valves, mesh material or holes of any kind are not permitted).

Masks will be available for anyone not wearing a mask compliant with this order.

Any visitor who fails or refuses to abide by these rules will be required to leave the courthouse immediately.

Courtroom Access

Prior to personally appearing in Court, parties and counsel are encouraged to report to the Court any concerns they have about health issues or relevant symptoms so that the Court can make informed decisions in the interest of justice and in the interest of the public's health.

The presiding judge will determine who may attend in-person hearings and the number of individuals who may be allowed in the courtroom at any one time. The presiding judge shall also determine what social-distancing practices and use of protective equipment will be required while present in the courtroom. The requirements of each judge will be made available on the Court's public website, www.tneb.uscourts.gov.

Shelley D. Rucker
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge

August 4, 2021