

38th Judicial District – Reconstitution of Court Operations – Mission Statement

***Mission:* As the 38th Judicial District begins the reconstitution process following the COVID-19 Judicial Emergency, we are focused on the following goals: SAFETY, JUSTICE and GROWTH.**

As we move forward with the reconstitution of court operations, the Court has adopted the above Mission Statement to serve as our guide. As much as we would like to go back to doing things the way we did before, that's not possible; at least not yet and maybe never. We will need to make choices. Some will want us to do more, others less. But we can make better decisions that may be better understood if we are clear in following the goals identified in our Mission Statement.

Our first goal is safety - keeping people safe. It is our most important priority. This includes all of the people who work in our court facilities, and all of the people who come to our court facilities. This will be accomplished in many ways: limiting the types of matters we are undertaking; limiting and spacing scheduling; limiting the number of people in our facilities, including judges and staff; and using advanced communication technology whenever possible.

Our second goal, described by the word "justice", is meant to cause us to focus on delivering justice to those who need it in a timely and appropriate manner. We will focus on those types of cases where there is greater need, and those areas where there is finality and purpose to our work. We will use advanced communication technology whenever possible, but it is important to recognize that for justice to be delivered, it can't just be convenient. It must be true and accurate. As a result, not everything can or will be handled remotely. Some cases will need to be handled more traditionally.

Our last goal is described by the word "growth." As circumstances change in the world around us, we will need to think creatively, to change our plans, and even change our course if necessary. We will be open to feedback and respond accordingly. We will listen, adapt and grow.