

FILED IN OPEN COURT

This 12<sup>th</sup> day of Mar 20 20  
ELISABETH A. FRENCH *E.A.F.*  
PRESIDING CIRCUIT JUDGE

STATE OF ALABAMA     )  
JEFFERSON COUNTY    )

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. AO. 2020-025.01**

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by Rule 5 of the Alabama Rules of Judicial Administration, as Presiding Judge of the Tenth Judicial Circuit, the following Administrative Order is entered:

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has announced that containment of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) is no longer possible and that community spread is occurring. A response plan is hereby initiated and attached hereto to mitigate the spread of the virus through the Jefferson County Courts.

In order to avoid bringing large groups of people together including individuals at higher risk (e.g. those over sixty (60) years of age, those with underlying health conditions, those who are pregnant), **jury trials previously scheduled for March 30, 2020 and April 13, 2020 are SUSPENDED.**

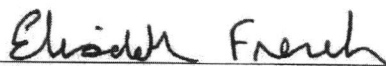
As to Criminal proceedings, the Court recognizes that we may face serious constitutional considerations. The Court finds that under these unique pandemic circumstances, the interests of public health and safety outweigh any Defendant's right to a speedy trial. To the extent possible, all other non-jury criminal matters and hearings may be conducted by telephone conference (or video conference if available) or continued (if appropriate) pending further Order of this Court.

Judges are encouraged to conduct Civil, Domestic and Family Court hearings by telephone conference (or video conference if available) and continue all non-emergency bench trials pending further Order of this Court.

Smart Board technology may be utilized at each Judges' discretion. Electronic filings may still be made and ruled upon through the Alacourt filing system.

This plan will be updated or vacated as new information is disseminated.

**DONE and ORDERED** on this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020.

  
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ELISABETH A. FRENCH  
PRESIDING JUDGE

Via Email Distribution:

Tom Parker, Chief Justice  
Rich Hobson, Administrative Director of Courts  
Circuit Judges  
District Judges  
Jacqueline Anderson Smith, Circuit Clerk  
Karen Dunn Burks, Deputy Circuit Clerk, Bessemer Division  
Bonita G. Conley, Court Administrator