

**MOBILE COUNTY
STATE OF ALABAMA****REVISED STANDING ORDER (3/14/20)**

On March 12, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Court issued a Standing Order suspending jury trials for the months of March and April 2020. On March 13, 2020, after the President of the United States declared a national emergency and the Governor of Alabama declared a state of emergency, the Alabama Supreme Court entered an administrative order suspending all in-person proceedings in all state and local courts in Alabama beginning on **Monday, March 16, 2020 through Thursday, April 16, 2020** with the following limited exceptions:

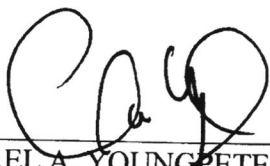
1. Bond-related matters and plea agreements for incarcerated individuals.
2. Arraignments for incarcerated individuals.
3. Preliminary hearings for incarcerated individuals.
4. Bench trials for incarcerated individuals.
5. Proceedings related to protection from abuse.
6. Proceedings related to emergency child custody and protection orders.
7. Department of Human Resources emergency matters related to child protection.
8. Proceedings related to petitions for temporary injunctive relief.
9. Proceedings related to emergency mental health orders.
10. Proceedings related to emergency protection of elderly or vulnerable persons.
11. Proceedings directly related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
12. Any emergent proceeding as needed by law enforcement.

The suspension of "jury trials" in Mobile County for **all of March and April** remains in place. All other in-person proceedings are suspended through April 16, 2020 unless your case falls within one of the twelve categories listed above.

DO NOT COME TO COURT unless your case falls within one of the twelve categories above.

DO NOT COME TO COURT if you are uncertain whether your case falls within one of the twelve categories listed above; instead contact your attorney for clarification. If you do not have an attorney, contact the personnel assigned to the judge who is handling the case for clarification.

DATED this 14th day of March 2020.



MICHAEL A. YOUNG PETER
PRESIDING CIRCUIT JUDGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

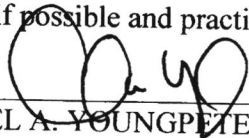
COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN FOR MOBILE COUNTY COURTS

The Centers for Disease Control ("CDC") has announced that it is no longer possible to prevent community spread of the virus. To mitigate the spread of the virus in Mobile County Courts, the following measures are being implemented at the **Government Plaza Courthouse**:

1. Entrance to the courthouse will be monitored by security personnel. Persons entering the courthouse should allow additional time to clear the security checkpoints. Spacing parameters for the wait line have been established and will be enforced by security personnel.
2. Persons who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 (or have had any contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19) shall not enter the courthouse.
3. Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital or health agency shall not enter the courthouse.
4. Attorneys are to contact their clients and witnesses BEFORE a scheduled court hearing to ensure that no one falls in categories two or three above. Also, if clients or witnesses are exhibiting possible symptoms of the coronavirus (particularly fever, persistent cough or respiratory problems), the attorney shall file a MOTION TO CONTINUE the trial, hearing or other proceeding.
5. Parties who are unrepresented and appearing *pro se* are to advise court security personnel of that status when arriving at the courthouse so that court security can determine if such parties fall within any of the three categories above. If court security determines that a *pro se* litigant (or his/her witness) does fall within any of the above categories, court security will notify the judge/staff of that status and the trial, hearing or other proceeding will be continued and reset to a later date.
6. Trial, hearings or other proceedings that move forward on the scheduled dates will proceed with the smallest number of persons in the courtroom as possible. Only essential persons need to be in the courtroom. There should be no less than three feet of space between persons sitting in the courtroom. Individual judges will schedule their dockets to attempt to accommodate such spacing parameters.
7. Attorneys and parties are encouraged to handle matters via waiver or otherwise without a live appearance in court, if that is possible. The Mobile County Court system is currently taking steps to increase the capacity to handle matters via video-conferencing, and our judges will schedule matters to be handled in that fashion if possible and practicable.

Date: _____

3/13/20



MICHAEL A. YOUNGPETER
PRESIDING CIRCUIT JUDGE