

26th Judicial Circuit
 Russell County, Alabama
 Administrative Order 2020-1
 Guidelines for Court Operations
 Effective March 16, 2020 – April 16, 2020

Pursuant to the Alabama Supreme Court administrative order suspending all in-person court proceedings through April 16, 2020. To protect the citizens of Russell County, Court staff and attorneys, the Judges of Russell County hereby, Order the following restrictions and requirements of all individuals and parties appearing before the Courts. The limitations set forth below are designed to not only protect the citizens from any health concerns but also to protect the rights of our citizens' access to justice in a timely manner.

Therefore, the following are suspended effective March 16, 2020:

- District Criminal dockets/hearings
- Small Claims dockets/hearings
- Traffic dockets/hearing
- District Civil dockets/hearings
- Jury Trials
- Circuit Criminal dockets/hearings
- Domestic Relations dockets/hearings
- Juvenile dockets/hearings
- Child Support dockets/hearings

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 CIRCUIT/DIST. COURT
 RUSSELL CO. AL

Exception to the in-person appearance ban may include:

Bond related matters for adult offenders:

- Motions for Bond reduction
- Motions for bond revocation
- Motions to set bond

Protection from Abuse Hearings; Attendees at these hearings are limited to:

- Complainant
- Complainant's attorney
- Defendant
- Defense Attorney
- Witnesses

Others deemed necessary and preapproved by the judge

Emergency child custody and protection matters (Including Department of Human Resources). Attendees at these hearings are limited to:

Complainant

Complainant's Attorney

Defendant

Defense Counsel

Witnesses

Guardian Ad Litem

Others deemed necessary and preapproved by the judge

Petitions for temporary injunctive relief in which the Court cannot handle via video or phone conferencing.

Emergency protection matters involving elderly or vulnerable persons.

Attendees at these hearings will be limited to:

Complainant

Complainant's attorney

Defendant

Defense Counsel

Witnesses

Guardian Ad Litem

Others deemed necessary and preapproved by the judge

Proceedings related to the COVID-19- public health emergencies.

Emergency proceedings as needed by law enforcement and approved by the Presiding Circuit Judge

Other exceptions as requested by the Presiding Circuit Judge and approved by the State of Alabama Chief Justice.

In addition, the judges, clerk, and court security have met and decided as follows: