

STATE OF ALABAMA) IN THE CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT COURTS OF THE
TALLADEGA COUNTY) 29TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ALABAMA

**STANDING ORDER REGARDING COURT PROCEEDINGS FOR THE 29TH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT FOR DATES MARCH 13, 2020 – APRIL 16, 2020
IN RE: COVID-19 PANDEMIC EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

This matter coming on before the Court on the 14th day of March, 2020 based on the Court's own motion; the Court having received and reviewed an **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER SUSPENDING ALL IN-PERSON COURT PROCEEDINGS FOR THE NEXT THIRTY DAYS (*with exceptions*)** on the 13th day of March, 2020 from the Alabama Supreme Court (a copy of which is attached to this Order); the authority granted to the Presiding Circuit Judge pursuant to Title 12, Chapter 12, Section 10 and Title 12, Chapter 17, Section 24 of the 1975 Code of Alabama, as amended; the authority granted to the Courts pursuant to Title 12, Chapter 1, Sections 2 and 7 of the 1975 *Code of Alabama*, as amended; the authority granted to the Courts pursuant to Title 12, Chapter 12, Sections 1 and 4 of the 1975 *Code of Alabama*, as amended; the need for the 29th Judicial Circuit of Alabama court system to remain open subject to the directives and guidelines provided in the aforementioned Administrative Order; the recent installation and availability of closed circuit television capabilities between the Talladega County Judicial Building and the Talladega County Jail; the Court having reviewed the previously adopted 2020 Consolidated Court Calendar Court in consultation with Judges Hollingsworth, Fannin and Rumsey; the desire of the

Court to provide specific docket information to all parties, court personnel and counsel of record; and the Presiding Judge having been authorized to determine the manner in which in-person court proceedings shall be conducted for the designated exceptions provided by said March 13, 2020 Administrative Order; and upon consideration thereof, the Court finds as follows:

- I. The President of the United States having declared a national emergency and the Governor of Alabama having declared a state of emergency for the State of Alabama amid the Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") pandemic, the Supreme Court of Alabama, pursuant to the authority vested in it under Article VI, §§ 139, 140 and 150, Ala. Const. 1901, hereby declares a state of emergency for the entire Judicial Branch of the State of Alabama.
- II. Prior to this Court entering this standing order, the Court has carefully reviewed the March 13, 2020 ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER SUSPENDING ALL IN-PERSON COURT PROCEEDINGS FOR THE NEXT THIRTY DAYS (*with exceptions*) from the Alabama Supreme Court which states in pertinent part as follows:

"All in-person proceedings in all state and local courts in Alabama, including, but not limited to, proceedings in the circuit court, district court (including cases on the small claims docket), juvenile court, municipal court, probate court, and appellate courts, are suspended beginning Monday, March 16, 2020 through Thursday, April 16, 2020, subject to the exceptions below.

Exceptions to this suspension of in-person court proceedings include, but are not limited to:

- ***Proceedings necessary to protect constitutional rights of criminal defendants, including bond-related matters and plea agreements for incarcerated individuals.***
- ***Civil and criminal jury trials that are in progress as of March 13, 2020.***
- ***Proceedings related to protection from abuse.***
- ***Proceedings related to emergency child custody and protection orders.***
- ***Department of Human Resources emergency matters related to child protection.***
- ***Proceedings related to petitions for temporary injunctive relief.***
- ***Proceedings related to emergency mental health orders.***
- ***Proceedings related to emergency protection of elderly or vulnerable persons.***
- ***Proceedings directly related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.***
- ***Any emergency proceeding as needed by law enforcement.***
- ***Other exceptions as approved by the Chief Justice."***

Based upon the foregoing, it is, therefore, **CONSIDERED** and **ORDERED** in the 29th Judicial Circuit of Alabama as follows:

1. Effective as of the date of this Order, all criminal initial appearances shall be held via closed-circuit television on each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:30 a.m. Said initial appearances shall be conducted by the "Duty Judge" as previously assigned by the Presiding Circuit Court Judge.
2. The Talladega County Grand Jury scheduled to convene on April 13, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. is hereby rescheduled for April 17, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.
3. The Clerk of Court of the 29th Judicial Circuit (or his designee) shall immediately contact the Presiding Circuit Court Judge of the 29th Judicial Circuit upon notification of any of the following:
 - a. Proceedings related to **newly filed** petitions for temporary injunctive relief.
 - b. Proceedings related to **newly filed** emergency mental health orders.
 - c. Proceedings related to **newly filed** emergency protection of elderly or vulnerable persons.
 - d. All proceedings directly related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
 - e. Any emergency proceeding as needed by law enforcement.
4. Relative to the office of Presiding Circuit Court Judge Chad E. Woodruff:

- a. The civil jury trial, Estate of Robert Nelson v. Coosa Valley Medical Center, that commenced on Monday, March 9, 2020 shall proceed as scheduled on Monday, March 16, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
- b. The April 2, 2020 Probation Revocation Docket for all **incarcerated** Defendants shall be conducted via closed circuit television as scheduled on April 2, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise ordered by the Court. ALL COUNSEL FOR INCARCERATED DEFENDANT'S SHOULD BE IN JUDGE WOODRUFF'S COURTROOM AT 9:00 A.M. FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH ALL INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THAT TIME. All defendants that are **NOT incarcerated** are hereby continued and reset for April 23, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
- c. The April 2, 2020 Youthful Offender rulings and Youthful Offender sentencing docket is hereby continued and will be rescheduled by the Court.
- d. The April 8, 2020 Sentencing Docket for all **incarcerated** Defendants shall be conducted via closed-circuit television as scheduled on April 8, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise ordered by the Court. ALL COUNSEL FOR INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS SHOULD BE IN JUDGE WOODRUFF'S COURTROOM AT 9:00 A.M. FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH ALL INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THAT TIME. All

Defendants that are **NOT incarcerated** are hereby continued and reset for May 6, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

- e. Unless specifically contacted and/or notified by separate Order from the Court, all non-jury bench trials and all "in-person" scheduled hearings in both civil and criminal matters set between the dates of March 16, 2020 and April 16, 2020 are hereby continued and will be rescheduled by the Court without the necessity of any party or counsel of record contacting the Court.
- f. All communications relative to bond-related matters, request for plea agreement hearings, rehabilitation requests, and all other matters relative to incarcerated defendants should be directed to the office of Chad E. Woodruff at 256.761.2106. Should you fail to reach the Court or fail to receive a return call within 48 hours, communication should be sent to chad.woodruff@alacourt.gov. All correspondence should be cc'd to Judicial Assistant Amy Otwell at amy.otwell@alacourt.gov.

- 5. Relative to the office of Circuit Court Judge William E. Hollingsworth, IV.:

- a. The temporary restraining order hearing (TRO), Case Action Number CV 2020 – 900102, remains set as scheduled for March 20, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

- b. The April 1, 2020 Probation Revocation Docket for all **incarcerated** Defendants shall be conducted via closed circuit television as scheduled on April 1, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. unless otherwise ordered by the Court. ALL COUNSEL FOR INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS SHOULD BE IN JUDGE HOLLINGSWORTH'S COURTROOM AT 1:00 P.M. FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH ALL INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THAT TIME. All defendants that are **NOT incarcerated** are hereby continued and reset for April 23, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.
- c. The April 8, 2020 Youthful Offender Sentencing Docket for all **incarcerated** Youthful Offenders shall be conducted via closed circuit television as scheduled on April 8, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. unless otherwise ordered by the Court. ALL COUNSEL FOR INCARCERATED YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS SHOULD BE IN JUDGE HOLLINGSWORTH'S COURTROOM AT 1:00 P.M. FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH ALL INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THAT TIME. All Youthful Offenders that are **NOT incarcerated** are hereby continued and reset for April 23, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.
- d. The April 8, 2020 Sentencing Docket for all **incarcerated** Defendants shall be conducted via closed circuit television as scheduled on April 8, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. unless otherwise ordered

by the Court. ALL COUNSEL FOR INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS SHOULD BE IN JUDGE HOLLINGSWORTH'S COURTROOM AT 1:00 P.M. FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH ALL INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THAT TIME. All defendants that are **NOT incarcerated** are hereby continued and reset for May 6, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

- e. Unless specifically contacted and/or notified by separate Order from the Court, all non-jury bench trials and all "in-person" scheduled hearings in both civil and criminal matters set between the dates of March 16, 2020 and April 16, 2020 are hereby continued and will be rescheduled by the Court without the necessity of any party or counsel of record contacting the Court.
- f. All necessary communication with the Court should be directed to the office of William E. Hollingsworth, IV. at 256.761.2108. Should you fail to reach the Court or fail to receive a return call within 48 hours, communication should be sent to will.hollingsworth@alacourt.gov. All correspondence should be cc'd to Judicial Assistant Maryleigh Freeman at maryleigh.freeman@alacourt.gov.

6. Relative to the office of District Judge Jeb S. Fannin:

- a. Proceedings related to protection from abuse shall be held as scheduled on March 26, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. For all newly filed

protection from abuse petitions, the Clerk of Court shall immediately notify Judge Fannin or his Judicial Assistant Janie Freeman.

- b. Proceedings related to emergency child custody and protection orders in "DR" case designation matters shall be held as previously scheduled by the Court. For all newly filed proceedings related to emergency child custody and protection orders in "DR" case designation matters, the Clerk of Court shall immediately notify Judge Fannin or his Judicial Assistant Janie Freeman.
- c. The April 7, 2020 Preliminary Hearing docket shall proceed as scheduled on April 7, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. for all **incarcerated** Defendants. Said docket **shall take place in the courtroom of Judge William E. Hollingsworth, IV.** Said docket will be take place via closed circuit television. ALL COUNSEL FOR INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS AND THOSE COUNSEL WISHING TO RECEIVE APPOINTED CASES FOR INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS SHOULD BE IN JUDGE HOLLINGSWORTH'S COURTROOM AT 9:00 A.M. FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH ALL CLIENTS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THAT TIME. All other cases wherein the Defendant is **NOT incarcerated** is hereby continued until May 5, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

- d. The Domestic Relations Child Support Docket set for March 19, 2020 is hereby continued until April 23, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
- e. The April 1, 2020 Worthless Check and Traffic dockets for all **incarcerated** Defendants shall be conducted via closed circuit television as scheduled on April 1, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise ordered by the Court. Said docket **shall take place in the courtroom of Judge William E. Hollingsworth, IV.** ALL COUNSEL FOR INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS SHOULD BE IN JUDGE HOLLINGSWORTH'S COURTROOM AT 10:00 A.M. FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH ALL INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THAT TIME. All Defendants that are **NOT incarcerated** are hereby continued and reset for May 6, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
- f. The April 2, 2020 Misdemeanor Docket for all **incarcerated** Defendants shall be conducted via closed circuit television as scheduled on April 2, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise ordered by the Court. Said docket **shall take place in the courtroom of Judge William E. Hollingsworth, IV.** ALL COUNSEL FOR INCARCERATED DEFENDANT'S SHOULD BE IN JUDGE HOLLINGSWORTH'S COURTROOM AT 9:00 A.M. FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH ALL INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THAT TIME. All defendants

that are **NOT incarcerated** are hereby continued and reset for May 7, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

g. The April 14, 2020 Small Claims/District Civil docket is hereby continued until May 12, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

h. Unless specifically contacted and/or notified by separate Order from the Court, all bench trials and all "in-person" scheduled hearings in both civil and criminal matters set between the dates of March 16, 2020 and April 16, 2020 are hereby continued and will be rescheduled by the Court without the necessity of any party or counsel of record contacting the Court.

i. All necessary communication with the Court should be directed to the office of Jeb S. Fannin at 256.761.2113. Should you fail to reach the Court or fail to receive a return call within 48 hours, communication should be sent to jeb.fannin@alacourt.gov. All correspondence should be cc'd to Judicial Assistant Janie Freeman at janie.freeman@alacourt.gov.

7. Relative to the office of District Judge M. Ryan Rumsey:

a. Proceedings related to emergency child custody and protection orders in "JU" case designation matters shall be held as previously scheduled by the Court. For all newly filed proceedings related to emergency child custody and protection orders in "JU" case designation matters, the Clerk of Court shall

immediately notify Judge Rumsey or his Judicial Assistant Wendy Farmer.

- b. Proceedings related to Department of Human Resources emergency matters related to child custody shall be held as previously scheduled by the Court. For all newly filed proceedings related to Department of Human Resources emergency child custody matters, the Clerk of Court shall immediately notify Judge Rumsey or his Judicial Assistant Wendy Farmer.
- c. The March 17, 2020 Delinquency Docket (TALLADEGA DIVISION) is hereby continued until April 24, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. unless the juvenile is in custody. For any juvenile in custody on March 17, 2020, said hearing will be conducted in the Courtroom of Judge Rumsey (TALLADEGA DIVISION) and be held by electronic communication.
- d. The March 18, 2020 Delinquency Docket (SYLACAUGA DIVISION) is hereby continued until April 20, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. unless the juvenile is in custody. For any juvenile in custody on March 18, 2020, said hearing will be conducted in the Courtroom of Judge Rumsey (SYLACAUGA DIVISION) and be held by electronic communication.

- e. The March 20, 2020 Domestic Violence Docket for all **incarcerated** Defendants shall be conducted via closed circuit television as scheduled on March 20, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise ordered by the Court. ALL COUNSEL FOR INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS SHOULD BE IN JUDGE HOLLINGSWORTH'S COURTROOM AT 9:00 A.M. FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH ALL INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THAT TIME. All defendants that are **NOT incarcerated** are hereby continued and reset for May 12, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
- f. The March 30, 2020 Child Support Docket (TALLADEGA DIVISION) for all **incarcerated** Defendants shall be conducted via closed circuit television as scheduled on March 30, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise ordered by the Court. ALL COUNSEL FOR INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS SHOULD BE IN JUDGE HOLLINGSWORTH'S COURTROOM AT 9:00 A.M. FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH ALL INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THAT TIME. All defendants that are **NOT incarcerated** are hereby continued and reset for April 21, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
- g. The March 31, 2020 Child Support Docket (SYLACAUGA DIVISION) for all **incarcerated** Defendants shall be conducted via closed

circuit television as scheduled on March 31, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise ordered by the Court. ALL COUNSEL FOR INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS SHOULD BE IN JUDGE HOLLINGSWORTH'S COURTROOM AT 9:00 A.M. FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH ALL INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THAT TIME. All defendants that are **NOT incarcerated** are hereby continued and reset for April 30, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

- h. The April 6, 2020 Worthless Check Docket for all **incarcerated** Defendants shall be conducted via closed circuit television as scheduled on April 6, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise ordered by the Court. Said docket **shall take place in the courtroom of Judge William E. Hollingsworth, IV.** ALL COUNSEL FOR INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS SHOULD BE IN JUDGE HOLLINGSWORTH'S COURTROOM AT 9:00 A.M. FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH ALL INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THAT TIME. All defendants that are **NOT incarcerated** are hereby continued and reset for June 8, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
- i. The April 6, 2020 Preliminary Hearing docket shall proceed as scheduled on April 6, 2020 at 1:00 p.m for all **incarcerated** Defendants. **Said docket shall take place in the courtroom of**

Judge William E. Hollingsworth, IV. Said docket will be take place via closed circuit television. ALL COUNSEL FOR INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS AND COUNSEL WISHING TO RECEIVE APPOINTED CASES FOR INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS SHOULD BE IN JUDGE HOLLINGSWORTH'S COURTROOM AT 9:00 A.M. FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH ALL INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THAT TIME. All other cases wherein the Defendant is **NOT incarcerated** is hereby continued until May 4, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

- j. The April 10, 2020 Dependency Docket (TALLADEGA DIVISION) is hereby continued until May 8, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
- k. The April 15, 2020 Traffic/Review Docket for all **incarcerated** Defendants shall be conducted via closed circuit television as scheduled on April 15, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise ordered by the Court. ALL COUNSEL FOR INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS SHOULD BE IN JUDGE HOLLINGSWORTH'S COURTROOM AT 9:00 A.M. FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH ALL INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THAT TIME. All defendants that are **NOT incarcerated** are hereby continued and reset for May 13, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

- l. The April 15, 2020 Small Claims/District Civil is hereby continued until May 13, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.
 - m. Unless specifically contacted and/or notified by separate Order from the Court, all bench trials and all "in-person" scheduled hearings in both civil and criminal matters set between the dates of March 16, 2020 and April 16, 2020 are hereby continued and will be rescheduled by the Court without the necessity of any party or counsel of record contacting the Court.
 - n. All necessary communication with the Court should be directed to the office of M. Ryan Rumsey at 256.249.1005. Should you fail to reach the Court or fail to receive a return call within 48 hours, communication should be sent to ryan.rumsey@alacourt.gov. All correspondence should be cc'd to Judicial Assistant Wendy Farmer at wendy.farmer@alacourt.gov.
8. Nothing in this Order shall prohibit any Circuit Court Judge or District Court Judge from conducting any court proceeding by telephone, video, teleconferencing, or other means that do not involve in-person contact. This Order does not affect courts' consideration of matters that can be resolved without in-person proceedings.
9. The Presiding Circuit Judge does hereby authorize the Sheriff of Talladega County to disallow and/or enjoin anyone from entering the Talladega County Judicial Building unless they are a current

employee or counsel that have cases currently pending before the courts. Absent express authorization provided in this Order, Courthouse security is hereby requested to contact the requested destination prior to admittance in the building. If the designated office is unavailable and/or fails to answer, permission to enter the Judicial Building must be granted by the Sheriff of Talladega County or his designee.

10. That a copy of this Order be forwarded to all Circuit Court Judges, all District Court Judges, District Attorney Steve Giddens, Sheriff Jimmy Kilgore, Talladega County Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy Clerk Janet Gaither, Talladega County Jail Administrator Shea Brown, Talladega County Bar President Simone Horn, Talladega County Bar Commissioner Sally Bowers, Talladega County Administrator Pat Lyle, and the Administrative Office of Courts, 300 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104.

This the 14th day of March, 2020.

/s/Chad E. Woodruff
CHAD E. WOODRUFF
PRESIDING CIRCUIT JUDGE