IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FORTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ALABAMA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-03-15

On March 13, 2020, the Supreme Court of Alabama entered an Order declaring a state of emergency for the entire Judicial Branch of the State of Alabama, and suspending all in-person proceedings in all state and local courts in Alabama including, but not limited to, proceedings in the circuit court, district court, juvenile court, municipal court, probate court, and appellate courts from March 16, 2020 through April 16, 2020 subject to certain exceptions. A copy of the Supreme Court's Order is attached hereto.

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) and to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19, all in-person proceedings previously scheduled for the Fortieth Circuit from March 16, 2020 through April 16, 2020 are SUSPENDED unless said hearing meets one of the exceptions identified by the Supreme Court's Order.

The circuit court criminal docket scheduled for Clay County on March 18, 2020 is hereby continued generally. However, any defendant that is set for said docket and currently incarcerated and desires to enter into a plea agreement with the State of Alabama, and said agreement will result in the defendant's release from custody, those cases will be heard upon the proper execution and electronic filing of a motion to allow plea of guilty, explanation of rights, and guidelines (if applicable) for each case. All other cases that meet the exceptions as identified by the Supreme Court's Order may be conducted, and to the extent possible, by telephone conference (or video conference, if available) pending further Order of this Court.

DONE and ORDERED this 15th day of March 2020.

PRESIDING JUDGE

<u>Via Email Distribution</u>
James Malone, District Judge
Carlton Teel, District Judge
Richard Dean, Probate Judge
Dianne Branch, Probate Judge
Jeffrey Wood, Circuit Clerk
Julie Poe, Circuit Clerk

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FORTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ALABAMA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-03-20

In order to avoid and reduce the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus, the offices of the Circuit Judge, District Judge and Circuit Clerk of this Circuit shall be closed to the general public. However, for those cases that meet the exceptions as identified by the Supreme Court's Order dated March 13, 2020, the hours of operation are as follows:

Monday – Friday

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

12:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.

These hours shall remain in effect until further Order of this Court.

A copy of this Administrative Order should be spread upon the minutes of this Court in Coosa County, Alabama and Clay County, Alabama.

DONE and ORDERED this 20th day of March, 2020.

David F. Law

Presiding Circuit Judge