

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CHEROKEE COUNTY, ALABAMA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

In consideration of the public health situation regarding Coronavirus/COVID-19, directives from the Alabama Supreme Court, the Governor of the State of Alabama, and the Administrative Office of Courts, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. With the exceptions listed in paragraph 2 below, all cases scheduled for hearing in the Cherokee County Courthouse for the week of March 16-20, 2020, are hereby CANCELLED.
2. The following cases/dockets are not cancelled. Attorneys and parties in these cases are expected to attend court:
 - a. Domestic Relations cases (except DHR child support cases which are cancelled). In Domestic Relations cases, the only persons that may attend court are the attorneys and the parties directly involved in the cases. No witnesses, children, or bystanders are permitted to attend. The witnesses are to be placed "on call" and will be called to the courthouse as needed.
 - b. Shelter care cases
 - c. Detention hearings in Juvenile Court
 - d. Emergency temporary custody hearings (72-hour hearings)
 - e. Protection From Abuse cases
 - f. Probate Court cases
3. This Administrative Order does not apply to Probate Court. All cases in that Court remain set as previously ordered unless specifically cancelled by order of the Probate Judge.

4. For those cases that have been continued, an order will be entered resetting them. In the event there is any question about the setting of a case, a party should contact their attorney. For those parties that do not have an attorney, they should contact the Circuit Clerk's Office at 256.927.3637. It is the responsibility of a party to check on the status of their case. For those parties without an attorney, if they have not received an order resetting their case by April 1, 2020, they should contact the Circuit Clerk's Office.
5. Persons who have travelled to any of the following countries within the last 14 days shall not enter the courthouse (this list may be updated periodically):
 - a. China
 - b. South Korea
 - c. Japan
 - d. Italy
 - e. Iran
6. Persons who reside with or have had close contact with someone who has travelled to one of the countries listed above within the last 14 days shall not enter the courthouse.
7. Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital, or health agency shall not enter the courthouse.
8. Persons who have been diagnosed with, or have had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with, COVID-19 shall not enter the courthouse
9. Persons with unexplained fever, cough, or shortness of breath shall not enter the courthouse.
10. The need for this Administrative Order will be re-evaluated on an ongoing basis.
This Order may be extended for future court dates by separate Administrative Order.