



CHAD D. COKER
DISTRICT JUDGE OF COLBERT COUNTY
201 N. MAIN STREET
TUSCUMBIA, ALABAMA 35674
Tel (256) 386-8524

YOU'VE GOT DISTRICT COURT QUESTIONS?

WE HAVE DISTRICT COURT ANSWERS.

These are serious times but we know that you have questions that need to be answered. Below you will find some frequently asked questions and the answers that we can provide. These are answers only for District Court. If you have a Circuit Court case before Judge Hatcher or Judge Brown, you will need to contact their office as their policies may be different. If you have a Probate Court question, you will need to contact that office as well.

Is the Colbert County District/Juvenile Court Closed?

No. The District/Juvenile Court is open but in-person access is not allowed at the present time by order of the Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court because of the Coronavirus outbreak.

Are any cases being heard in-person?

Yes. The Chief Justice's order allows for only specific types of cases to be heard in-person. We are currently hearing certain types of criminal cases (bond hearings, bond revocation hearings, and preliminary hearings).

We are also hearing any private emergency child custody cases and DHR emergency custody cases. We are also hearing Termination of Parental Rights.

What about my case that was already set for court?

All cases that were set for a court appearance or trial between March 16 – April 16, 2020 have been continued generally. You should have received a copy of that order in the mail. Once we get permission to hear all cases again, we will give your case a new court date and mail that order to you. Don't worry, you will have at least two weeks advance notice of your new court date. Make sure we have your current address.

If you have a case that was set after April 16, 2020, it has not been continued and is still set for a hearing. Should we need to continue your case you will receive a copy of the order in the mail.

I've filed a case and the Defendant hasn't answered. Can I file a Motion for Default Judgment?

Yes. We are still issuing orders in most cases. If for any reason we need additional information regarding your motion for default, we will request it in a court order.

The Circuit Clerk has a drop box located near the elevator on the second floor where you can drop off your motion or court pleadings. However, if you need to pay a filing fee you will need to contact the clerk's office and get from them the amount of any filing fee. They can be reached at 256-386-8511.

While the courthouse is closed, can I come to a court hearing?

Unfortunately, no. Unless you are the Defendant or a necessary witness, you will not be allowed to enter the courthouse. The lawyers in each case will provide this Court with the names of any necessary witnesses prior to the hearing. Security personnel will have the names of those allowed to enter on each case.

What about my traffic ticket? Can I enter a guilty plea and pay it in full now?

Yes. If you have not been to court you may go to [www. http://traffic.alacourt.gov](http://traffic.alacourt.gov) or call [866-954-9399](tel:866-954-9399).

You may contact the clerk's office (256-386-8511) to find out the amount you owe and obtain a money order in that amount and bring it to the courthouse to pay. Outside the clerk's office, by the elevator, there are envelopes for you to use. Place your payment in the envelope and write your name, phone number and case number (if you know it). After you seal the envelope, place it in the mail slot in their door. You can always mail it in by sending it to:

**Colbert County Circuit Clerk
P.O. Box 740370
Tuscumbia, AL 35674**

What if I need to enter a guilty plea on my traffic ticket but I need some time to pay?

Our office will accept guilty pleas over the phone. You may call the District Judge's Office at 256-386-8524 and we will ask you some identifying information to accept your plea. Once you plead guilty, we will issue your order and a payment slip will be sent to you. It's important we have a current address for you. You will be given until August 31, 2020 to pay any monies owed. Payments can be mailed to the clerk's office (P.O. Box 740370) or dropped off using the payment envelope at the clerk's office. You must pay with a money order as they will not accept cash at this time.

What if I have insurance now or have another ticket question?

Call the District Judge's Office at 256-386-8524 and we can talk to you about your case.

What if I want to go to driving school?

Wait until your case is set for a court date. You can come to court on that date and request driving school. All driving school classes through Colbert County District Court have been suspended until we are able to have hearings again. If you have already paid but have not attended, just check back in with Community Corrections once court resumes.

"But if I don't show up for court, y'all will issue a warrant for me!"

No, we won't. So long as you are not allowed to come in person to see us, warrants will not be issued for any missed payment or missed court appearance. We will work with you on these issues. Just call us if you have a question.

But I've still got questions, how do I get them answered?

Call us or go all "old school" and buy a stamp and write us. Below you will find some contact information. If you call, please leave a message if we do not answer immediately. There's no need to call back again. We will call you as soon as we can.

**District Court
Chad D. Coker, District Judge
201 N. Main Street Tuscumbia, AL 35674
(256) 386-8524**

**Stay safe. Wash your hands. Call your
mama if you've got one.
We will see you once court resumes.**

Chad D. Coker
District Judge