

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF SHELBY COUNTY, ALABAMA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER – COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN FOR
SHELBY COUNTY STATE COURTS (18th Judicial Circuit)

On Thursday, March 12, 2020, the Supreme Court of Alabama, having considered the possible threat of the coronavirus in the State of Alabama, entered an order granting the presiding judges of this state the authority to suspend jury trials “completely or on a case by case basis for the next week, March 16 -20.” As today marks the end of the March 2020 jury term in the 18th Judicial Circuit and all jurors have fulfilled their duties, the order has no application in this circuit, as the next scheduled jury week does not begin until April 6, 2020.

Accordingly, the undersigned Presiding Circuit Judge does hereby ORDER, ADJUDGE and DECREE that all State Offices in the Shelby County Courthouse maintain regular business operations until further Order. Moreover, all Circuit and District Judges shall continue to maintain complete discretion over the management of cases set on their respective dockets. The judges shall give strong consideration to minimizing the number of people required to appear at the courthouse by suspending/continuing all cases EXCEPT those that involve the following:

- 1) a constitutionally or statutorily mandated time constraint; or
- 2) the immediate health, safety or welfare of an involved party.

Attorneys practicing in this circuit should closely monitor the Alafile system for case updates. Notifications will be entered as orders on a case-by-case basis, and attorneys receiving such orders shall promptly notify their clients.

Individuals not represented by an attorney who wish to obtain information regarding the status of the case in which they are involved may contact the Office of the Circuit Clerk at (205) 669-3760.

Consistent with the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that precautions be taken to limit and/or avoid exposure to the virus, it is hereby ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that the following persons SHALL NOT enter into the Shelby County Courthouse:

- 1) Persons who have traveled to any of the following countries within the last fourteen (14) days:
 - China
 - Iran
 - South Korea

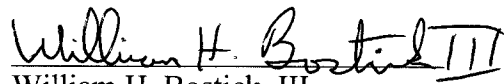
- Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Monaco, San Marino, Vatican City;
 - Any other countries added to the CDC's Warning – Level 3, Avoid Nonessential Travel List, subsequent to the effective date of this order.
(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>)
- 2) Persons who reside with or have had close contact with someone who has traveled to one of the above areas within the last fourteen (14) days;
 - 3) Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital or health agency;
 - 4) Persons who have been diagnosed with, or have had contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
 - 5) Persons with unexplained fever, cough or shortness of breath.

Persons in any of the above categories who have business at the courthouse or are in need of assistance from an agency or office within the courthouse shall notify a Court Deputy, who shall promptly contact the Court Administrator, Jennifer Nalu, for assistance with tending to that business or those needs. **Anyone attempting to enter the courthouse in violation of these protocols will be denied entry by a Court Deputy.**

It is anticipated that the protocols outlined in this Order will be updated as new information becomes available.

It is ORDERED that a copy of this Order shall be spread upon the minutes of the Court and a copy shall be provided to the Administrative Office of Courts.

DONE and ORDERED this the 13th day of March, 2020.


William H. Bostick, III
Presiding Circuit Judge