



IN THE THIRTY-EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT JACKSON COUNTY, ALABAMA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

An Order Relating to Virtual Court Hearings

WHEREAS, the Alabama Supreme Court has entered an administrative order that “[a]ll 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 [certain] exceptions”; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Supreme court has suspended until at least April 16, 2020 any rule that limits a judge’s ability to consider testimony by use of audio or video conferencing; and

WHEREAS, Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Parker has signed an order permitting court proceedings to be held using audio video conferencing technology; for court reporters to administer oaths to witnesses who are not physically present before the court reporter; and for trial courts to consider the testimony of those witnesses as evidence (see attachment); and

WHEREAS, after consultation with all other judges of this judicial circuit, the following rules are deemed necessary for the local implementation of virtual court proceedings;

It is further ORDERED that until April 16, 2020 or during any subsequent period of time the Alabama Supreme Court shall suspend or partially suspend in-court proceedings, the following rules and guidelines are hereby adopted and shall be followed by all parties appearing for any