

STATE OF ALABAMA        )                    IN THE CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT COURTS OF THE  
TALLADEGA COUNTY       )                    29<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ALABAMA

APR 17 2020  
1:03 PM  
COURT CLERK

**STANDING ORDER REGARDING COURT PROCEEDINGS FOR THE 29<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FOR DATES (APRIL 17, 2020 – APRIL 30, 2020)**  
**IN RE: COVID-19 PANDEMIC EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

This matter coming on before the Court on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020 based on the Court's own motion; the Court having received and reviewed an **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 5 EXTENDING ORDERS AND DEADLINES CONCERNING THE SUSPENDING IN-PERSON PROCEEDINGS UNTIL APRIL 30, 2020** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2020 from the Alabama Supreme Court (a copy of which is attached to this Order); the authority granted to the Presiding Circuit Judge pursuant to Title 12, Chapter 12, Section 10 and Title 12, Chapter 17, Section 24 of the 1975 Code of Alabama, as amended; the authority granted to the Courts pursuant to Title 12, Chapter 1, Sections 2 and 7 of the 1975 Code of Alabama, as amended; the authority granted to the Courts pursuant to Title 12, Chapter 12, Sections 1 and 4 of the 1975 Code of Alabama, as amended; the need for the 29<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit of Alabama court system to remain open subject to the directives and guidelines provided in the Administrative Order(s) of the Alabama Supreme Court; the recent installation and availability of closed-circuit television capabilities between the Talladega County Judicial Building and the Talladega County Jail; the Court having implemented ZOOM video-conferencing platform for court proceedings; the Court and Sheriff of Talladega County having

implemented the ZOOM video-conferencing platform for attorney-client communications; the Court having reviewed the previously adopted 2020 Consolidated Court Calendar Court in consultation with Judges Hollingsworth, Fannin and Rumsey, District Attorney Steve Giddens, Sheriff Jimmy Kilgore and Circuit Clerk Brian York; the desire of the Court to continue providing specific docket and case management information to all parties, court personnel and counsel of record for cases pending before the Courts; and the Presiding Judge having been authorized to determine the manner in which in-person court proceedings shall be conducted for the designated exceptions provided by said March 13, 2020 Administrative Order and subsequent Orders from the Alabama Supreme Court dated March 16, 2020, March 18, 2020 and March 24, 2020; and upon consideration thereof, the Court finds as follows:

- I. The President of the United States having declared a national emergency and the Governor of Alabama having declared a state of emergency for the State of Alabama amid the Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") pandemic, the Supreme Court of Alabama, pursuant to the authority vested in it under Article VI, §§ 139, 140 and 150, Ala. Const. 1901, hereby declares a state of emergency for the entire Judicial Branch of the State of Alabama.
- II. Prior to this Court entering this standing order, the Court has carefully reviewed the April 2, 2020 **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 5: EXTENDING ORDERS AND DEADLINES CONCERNING THE SUSPENSION**

**OF IN-PERSON PROCEEDINGS UNTIL APRIL 30, 2020** from the

Alabama Supreme Court which states in pertinent part as follows:

***"This Court hereby extends until April 30, 2020, the state of emergency for Alabama's Unified Judicial System initially declared by order dated March 13, 2020... Any deadlines in the Court's Administrative Orders that are set to expire on April 16, 17, 20, 2020, are hereby extended through April 30, 2020, and the orders shall remain in full and effect through April 30, 2020. Furthermore, trial courts shall continue to utilize available technologies such as teleconferencing and videoconferencing to conduct hearings when it is practical and feasible to do so.***

Based upon the foregoing, it is, therefore, **CONSIDERED** and **ORDERED** in the 29<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit of Alabama as follows:

1. Effective as of the date of this Order, all criminal initial appearances shall remain held via closed-circuit television on each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:30 a.m. Said initial appearances shall be conducted by the "Duty Judge" as previously assigned by the Presiding Circuit Court Judge.
2. The Talladega County **Grand Jury** scheduled to convene on April 17, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. is **hereby rescheduled for May 18, 2020** at 8:30 a.m.
3. In light of the approaching deadline for the Clerk of Court to notify prospective jurors of jury service and the current as well as projected COVID-19 Pandemic exposure in the State of Alabama and

Talladega County , the **May 2020 jury trial term** scheduled to commence on May 11, 2020 **is hereby cancelled** and will be rescheduled by this Court at a later date.

4. **All counsel of record for any pending civil or criminal case** currently pending in the 29<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit of Alabama **shall immediately create a ZOOM (video-conferencing platform) account** and maintain current contact information with the Clerk of Court and the judicial assistants for all judges in the 29<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit.
5. The Clerk of Court of the 29<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit (or his designee) shall immediately contact the Presiding Circuit Court Judge of the 29<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit upon notification of any of the following:
  - a. Proceedings related to **newly filed** petitions for temporary injunctive relief.
  - b. Proceedings related to **newly filed** emergency mental health orders.
  - c. Proceedings related to **newly filed** emergency protection of elderly or vulnerable persons.
  - d. All proceedings directly related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
  - e. Any emergency proceeding as needed by law enforcement.
6. Relative to the office of Presiding Circuit Court Judge Chad E. Woodruff:

- a. The April 2, 2020 **Youthful Offender rulings and Youthful Offender sentencing** docket is hereby continued to June 9, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.
- b. The April 8, 2020 Sentencing Docket for all **incarcerated** Defendants shall be conducted via closed-circuit television **as scheduled on April 8, 2020** unless otherwise ordered by the Court. ALL COUNSEL FOR INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS WERE SENT DETAILED INFORMATION AND DESIGNATED COURT APPEARANCE TIME(S) ON APRIL 2, 2020. All Defendants that are **NOT incarcerated** remain and/or is hereby set for May 6, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
- c. The April 21, 2020 **PLEA DOCKET** for all **incarcerated** Defendants shall be conducted via closed-circuit television as scheduled on April 21, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise ordered by the Court. ALL COUNSEL FOR INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED WITH FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS AND PROVIDED A DESIGNATED TIME FOR COURT APPEARANCE. The **PLEA DOCKET** for all defendants that are **NOT incarcerated** are hereby continued and reset for May 21, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.
- d. The April 23, 2020 Arraignment Docket for all **incarcerated** Defendants shall be conducted via closed-circuit television **as scheduled on April 23, 2020** unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

ALL COUNSEL FOR INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED WITH FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS AND PROVIDED A DESIGNATED TIME FOR COURT APPEARANCE. All Defendants that are **NOT incarcerated** remain are hereby set for **May 29, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.**

- e. The April 23, 2020 **Probation Revocation Docket** for all **incarcerated** Defendants shall be conducted via closed circuit television as scheduled on April 23, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise ordered by the Court. THE PROBATION REVOCATION DOCKET SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN THE SAME MANNER AS EMPLOYED AT THE APRIL 2, 2020 PROBATION REVOCATION DOCKET. All defendants that are **NOT incarcerated** are hereby continued and reset for **May 7, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.**
- f. All **non-jury bench trials** in both civil and criminal matters set between the dates of **April 17, 2020 and April 30, 2020** are hereby continued and **will be rescheduled** by the Court without the necessity of any party or counsel of record contacting the Court.
- g. The Court will continue to **further use** the ZOOM video-conference platform **for civil cases** pending before the Court with limited exceptions. A “virtual hearing” standing order is currently being drafted to provide guidelines, consistency and assistance to all parties and counsel of record and will be distributed in a separate order when finalized.

- h. The Court **will be implementing the use** of ZOOM video-conferencing platform for **criminal cases** pending wherein the Defendant is **out on bond**. A "virtual hearing" standing order is currently being drafted to provide guidelines, consistency and assistance to all parties and counsel of record and will be distributed in a separate order when finalized.
- i. All communications relative to bond-related matters, request for plea agreement hearings, rehabilitation requests, and all other matters relative to incarcerated defendants should be directed to the office of Chad E. Woodruff at 256.761.2106. Should you fail to reach the Court or fail to receive a return call within 48 hours, communication should be sent to [chad.woodruff@alacourt.gov](mailto:chad.woodruff@alacourt.gov)  
All correspondence should be cc'd to Judicial Assistant Amy Otwell at [amy.otwell@alacourt.gov](mailto:amy.otwell@alacourt.gov).

7. **All parties and counsel of record with cases pending before Talladega County Judges Hollingsworth, Fannin and Rumsey will be notified of all court appearances by Separate Order and/or notification from the respective Court.**

8. Nothing in this Order shall prohibit any Circuit Court Judge or District Court Judge from conducting any court proceeding by telephone, video, teleconferencing, or other means that do not involve in-

person contact. This Order does not affect courts' consideration of matters that can be resolved without in-person proceedings.

9. The Presiding Circuit Judge does hereby continue the authorization of the Sheriff of Talladega County to disallow and/or enjoin the general public from entering the Talladega County Judicial Building unless they are a current employee or counsel that have cases currently pending before the courts. Absent express authorization provided in this Order and for all other requests to enter the Talladega County Judicial Building, security is hereby requested to contact the requested destination prior to admittance in the building. If the designated office is unavailable and/or fails to answer, permission to enter the Talladega County Judicial Building must be granted by the Sheriff of Talladega County or his designee at 256.362.2748.
10. That a copy of this Order be forwarded to all Circuit Court Judges, all District Court Judges, District Attorney Steve Giddens, Sheriff Jimmy Kilgore, Talladega County Circuit Clerk Brian York, Talladega County Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy Clerk Janet Gaither, Talladega County Jail Administrator Shea Brown, Talladega County Bar President Simone Horn, Talladega County Bar Commissioner Sally Bowers, Talladega County Administrator Pat Lyle, and the Administrative Office of Courts, 300 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104.



This the 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020.

/s/Chad E. Woodruff  
CHAD E. WOODRUFF  
PRESIDING CIRCUIT JUDGE