

TO THE HONORABLE JODY SELLERS ) IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT ) RUSSELL COUNTY, ALABAMA  
OF RUSSELL COUNTY, AL )

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

**Pursuant to the authority vested in me as Presiding Judge of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial Circuit, the following Administrative Order is hereby entered:**

**The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has announced that containment of COVID-19 (coronavirus) is no longer possible and that community spread is occurring. A response plan incorporated in the memorandum attached hereto is hereby initiated to mitigate the spread of throughout the Russell County Judicial Center located at 501 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Phenix City, Alabama.**

**To avoid bringing large groups of people together including individuals at higher risk (e.g. those over sixty (60) years of age, those with underlying health conditions, those who are pregnant), jury trials are hereby suspended as of the date of this Order until September 14, 2020.**

**As to Criminal proceedings, the Court recognizes that we may face serious constitutional considerations. The Court finds that under these unique pandemic circumstances, the interests of public health and safety outweigh any Defendant's right to a speedy trial. To the extent possible, all other non-jury criminal matters and hearings may be conducted by telephone conference (or video conference if available) or continued (if appropriate) pending further Order of this Court.**

**Judges are encouraged to conduct Civil, Domestic and Family Court hearings by telephone conference (or video conference if available) and continue all non-emergency bench trials pending further Orders of this Court.**

**Video conferencing (i.e. Skype, FaceTime, Zoom, etc.) technology may be utilized at each Judges' discretion. Electronic filings may still be made and ruled upon through the Alacourt filing system.**

**Nothing in this Order or attached memorandum shall constitute a "closure" of the Russell County Judicial Center Building, pursuant to Rule 5 of the Alabama**

**Rules of Judicial Administration, for purpose of legal filings. The Russell County Circuit Clerk's office will remain in operation to receive all filings from those individuals and/or entities not represented by legal counsel, or who may not have access to the Alacourt statewide electronic filing system.**

**Any and all individuals who are under the supervision of the Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles (Alabama State Probation Office), Russell County Community Corrections and Russell County Court Referral (CRO) shall continue to report to their office and adhere to all requirements of said supervision.**

**The following procedures are to be implemented for all proceedings in the Twenty-Sixth Judicial Circuit**

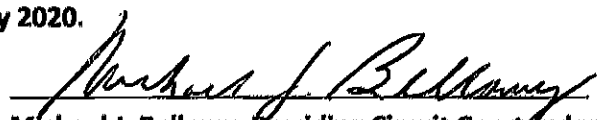
- 1. All parties shall maintain 6-foot social distancing from others in the courtroom.**
- 2. Only TWO (2) PARTIES ON ELEVATORS TO MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING.**
- 3. Hand sanitizer shall be used.**
- 4. When possible, courts are encouraged to continue to utilize virtual hearings.**
- 5. Masks are REQUIRED.**
- 6. When necessary, staggered dockets shall be implemented.**

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2020 MAY 15 AM 11:18  
JUDICIAL DIST. COURT  
RUSSELL CO., ALA.

**FAILURE TO ADHERE TO THE IMPLEMENTED RULES  
WILL SUBJECT THE PERSON TO CONTEMPT OF COURT.**

**This plan will be updated or vacated as new information is disseminated.**

**DONE and Ordered this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020.**

  
**Michael J. Bellamy, Presiding Circuit Court Judge**