

STATE OF ALABAMA) IN THE CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT COURTS
ESCAMBIA COUNTY) OF THE 21ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ALABAMA

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING COURT PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE 21ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN RE: COVID-19 PANDEMIC EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

This matter coming on before the Court on the 15th day of May, 2020 based on the Court's own motion; the Court having received and reviewed **"ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 7: RESUMPTION OF IN-PERSON HEARINGS AUTHORIZED AFTER MAY 15, 2020, AND CONTINUED SUSPENSION OF JURY TRIALS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 14, 2020"** on the 13th day of May, 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 21st Judicial Circuit of Alabama court system to remain open subject to directives and/or guidelines provided by the Alabama Supreme Court; the availability and use of virtual means between the Escambia County Courthouse and the Escambia County Detention Center; the availability and use of ZOOM video-conferencing platform; the Court having been made aware of the need to adopt and implement safety measures necessary for resuming in-person proceedings; and the Presiding Judge having been granted authority to make decisions regarding the safety and welfare of all court personnel in all courts within the circuit; the Court having taken judicial

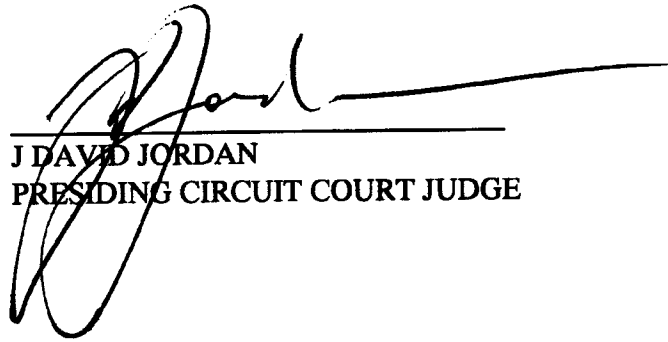
knowledge of the March 13, 2020 Administrative Order and subsequent Orders from the Alabama Supreme Court dated March 16, 2020, March 18, 2020, March 24, 2020, April 2, 2020 and April 30, 2020 and upon consideration thereof, the Court finds as follows:

- I. The President of the United States declared a national emergency and the Governor of Alabama 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, declared a state of emergency for the entire Judicial Branch of the State of Alabama.
- II. Thereafter, on May 8, 2020, Governor Kay Ivey announced the amendment of the “Safer at Home Order,” effective May 11, 2020.
- III. While the Supreme Court of Alabama has extended the state of emergency for the Judicial Branch of the State of Alabama by Order dated May 13, 2020, the Supreme Court of Alabama has now authorized the Presiding Circuit Judge of each circuit and subject to the provisions outlined by the Supreme Court, to recommence in-person hearings in their respective judicial circuit.

Based upon the foregoing, it is, therefore, **CONSIDERED** and **ORDERED** in the 21st Judicial Circuit of Alabama as follows:

1. All parties should maintain 6-foot social distancing from others in the courtroom.
2. If available, hand sanitizer should be used.
3. When possible, courts and parties are encouraged to continue to utilize virtual hearings.
4. Masks are encouraged.
5. When necessary, staggered dockets shall be implemented.

This the 15th day of May, 2020.



J DAVID JORDAN
PRESIDING CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA
IN RE: COVID - 19 PANDEMIC EMERGENCY RESPONSE
MAY 13, 2020

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 7:
RESUMPTION OF IN-PERSON HEARINGS AUTHORIZED AFTER MAY 15,
2020, AND CONTINUED SUSPENSION OF JURY TRIALS UNTIL
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

On May 8, 2020, Governor Kay Ivey announced the amendment of the "Safer at Home Order," effective May 11, 2020.

This Court hereby extends the state of emergency for the Judicial Branch of the State of Alabama pending further order. All administrative orders issued by this Court in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, except for Administrative Order No. 3 pertaining to briefing and filing deadlines, are hereby extended and shall remain in effect, except as set forth below.

Subject to the approval of the Presiding Circuit Judge of each circuit and subject to the provisions of this order, in-person hearings in the circuit courts, district courts, juvenile courts, municipal courts, and probate courts are authorized to recommence after May 15, 2020.

For the purposes of determining whether to recommence in-person court hearings, the Presiding Circuit Judge is granted authority to make decisions regarding the safety and welfare of all court personnel in all courts within the circuit. The Presiding Circuit Judge is specifically authorized to adopt procedures that, in his or her discretion, will implement the recommendations and requirements of the "Safer at Home Order" so as to protect court employees and other individuals accessing all courts within the circuit. In making such determinations and before adopting any order or procedures, the Presiding Circuit Judge should consult with other judges in the circuit, the Chairman of the County Commission(s), the Circuit Clerk(s), the Sheriff(s), the District Attorney, and the Public Defender in counties or circuits having a full-time public defender.

Presiding Circuit Judges are authorized to extend the restriction of in-person court proceedings in any court beyond May 15, 2020, provided that a written order is entered and forwarded to the Chief Justice and provided that the order does not extend beyond August 15, 2020.

Jury trials shall remain suspended until September 14, 2020.

Parker, C.J., and Bolin, Shaw, Wise, Bryan, Sellers, Mendheim, Stewart, and Mitchell, JJ., concur.

Witness my hand and seal this the 13th day of May, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julia Jordan Weller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Julia Jordan Weller
Clerk of Court
Supreme Court of Alabama