

IN THE THIRTY-NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
LIMESTONE COUNTY, ALABAMA

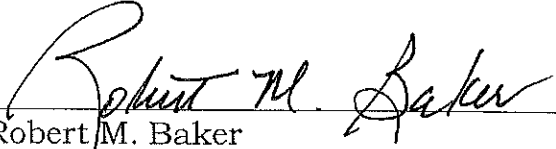
ORDER

Pursuant to the Alabama Supreme Court Order of May 13, 2020, it is hereby ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED as follows: All in person court proceedings may begin on Monday, May 18, 2020. The Courts will continue to set hearings virtually as well. In order to conduct virtual hearings, a valid email of all participants must be of record in the Clerk's Office. In the event that any party or attorney wishes to have a hearing set virtually, said request shall be forwarded to the assigned judge for consideration. Jury trials are suspended until September 14, 2020. The limitations set forth below are designed to not only protect the citizens from any health concerns, but also to protect the rights of our citizens' access to justice in a timely manner.

Masks must be worn by all participants appearing in the Circuit and/or District Courts of Limestone County, as well as the Circuit Court Clerk's Office of Limestone County until further notice. The mask or face covering shall be sufficient to cover the individual's nose and mouth. Courtrooms will have designated seating to maintain a six (6) foot separation at all times. Due to the limited seating available, persons who are not attorneys, defendants, witnesses, or litigants will not be allowed into the courthouse. Witnesses shall be placed on standby according to the instructions from the individual judge to whom the case is assigned. The Circuit and District Court Judges of Limestone County, AL, the City of Athens, AL, Municipal Judge, and the Probate Judge of Limestone County, are hereby expressly authorized to impose such additional guidelines and restrictions as they deem appropriate for their particular courts, taking into account the safety of the public and court employees.

Any person who is ill or who is experiencing any respiratory issues or fever, regardless of suspected coronavirus, shall not attend any court hearing, trial, or proceeding. Attorneys should inquire of their clients and witnesses if they have experienced any symptoms or been diagnosed with COVID-19, and notify the court immediately.

DONE and ORDERED this the 19th day of May, 2020.

  
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Robert M. Baker  
Presiding Circuit Judge