



CHAD D. COKER

DISTRICT JUDGE OF COLBERT COUNTY

201 N. MAIN STREET

TUSCUMBIA, ALABAMA 35674

Telephone
(256) 386-8524

Fax
(256) 389-9047

May 14, 2020

COLBERT COUNTY DISTRICT COURTROOM GENERAL PROCEDURES TO RESUME IN-PERSON HEARINGS

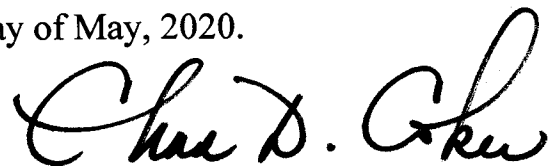
These general procedures are intended to apply in all proceedings held in the District Court in Colbert County, Alabama, so long as social distancing practices are mandated.

1. Courtroom capacity in Courtroom Number 3 is limited to 20 individuals.
2. Dockets may be set at intervals throughout the day so please note the exact time on your notice as these times may not be the same docket times previously followed by the court. Each interval may vary depending on the case and the nature of a docket. Anyone arriving early for a hearing will not be admitted until their docket/hearing starts.
3. Retained attorneys will be asked to contact their clients the day before court or meet them outside the courthouse the day of court to confirm with them that neither they, nor any witness has symptoms (fever, breathing issues, etc.), has been exposed to someone with symptoms or are in a high risk group. In the event these issues exist, the attorney shall notify security or the court immediately and the individual in question, shall **not** enter the courthouse until further discussions are held with the Court.
4. Anyone may use appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) in the courtroom. Anyone wearing a mask that is inappropriate may be denied access. Anyone, including witnesses, parties, or attorney's testifying or speaking on the record will be required to temporarily remove their mask.
5. There shall be a minimum of 6 ft. of separation between everyone in the courtroom. The courtroom will be marked with tape indicating seating

locations that comply with social distancing requirements. Certain exceptions may be made for elderly defendants requiring caregivers or parents with small children.

6. In the courtroom there will be designated areas for parties and attorneys to sit that allow for their separation from each other and from court personnel.
7. Witnesses may be on a five (5) minute standby where they can be notified by phone when to enter the courthouse. The witness shall remain in their car or at a location not more than five minutes away, until called in. It will be the responsibility of the attorney, or pro se party, to call in the witness as needed.
8. On all matters set for trial, all parties shall be prepared to try their case upon entry into the courthouse. Court proceedings will not be delayed for the parties to engage in settlement discussions on the day of trial. Should a settlement be reached prior to the trial setting, any party involved in the case shall notify this Court and his/her client in advance.
9. Spectators will not be allowed in the courtroom. Attorneys should advise their clients not to invite friends or family to be in attendance as they will not be allowed to enter and will be asked to leave the courthouse.
10. Anyone intentionally violating the separation order will be subject to the contempt powers of the court and at a minimum may be asked to leave the building.
11. The District Court/Juvenile Court will continue to utilize Zoom technology and this Court should be notified if all parties agree to a Zoom hearing/status conference in lieu of an in-court appearance. This Court will then determine whether to set said matter for a virtual hearing.

DONE and ORDERED this the 14th day of May, 2020.



Chad D. Coker
District Judge