

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NUMBER 3

The Circuit and District courts of the 21st Judicial Circuit continue to monitor the available information concerning the current Covid-19 Pandemic. At this time Escambia County, AL is now classified by state health authorities as a “very high risk county”. Further, the seven day new case rate for Escambia County, while at approximately 1.5 cases daily as of the resumption of in -person hearings in this circuit, has reached 13.5 as of June 30, 2020 and continues to climb daily. Governor Ivey extended the current “Safer at Home Order” for the state of Alabama by Proclamation on June 30, 2020.

Therefore, this Order shall be effective as of July 6, 2020 in the 21st Judicial Circuit. As of that date all persons entering a courtroom for a large docket will be required to wear an appropriate face covering or “mask”. A large docket is defined as any docket where more than one case is set at a given time. The courts will continue the current practice of making same available in both courtrooms. Parties and attorneys are encouraged to bring their own masks as availability of same to the courts is limited. The judges shall continue to have discretion to require masks in individual hearings. Attorneys and parties should expect a higher likelihood that masks will be required of all persons in proceedings in courtroom #2 given its smaller size.

As of July 6, 2020, all persons entering a courtroom in this circuit shall be required to submit to temperature screening. Any person with a temperature reading of 100.4 or above will not be allowed admission into a courtroom. A condition precedent to temperature screening shall be the availability of personnel to conduct same.

If an attorney becomes aware that his or her client or witness in a case set for an in-person hearing is positive for Covid-19, or has Covid symptoms, or has been directly exposed in the previous fourteen days, that attorney is required to report same to the court having jurisdiction over that case as well as opposing counsel and/or pro se party(ies) as soon as possible. Counsel shall not wait until the day of the hearing to report same.

Social distancing shall continue to be observed and followed by all persons in a courtroom in this circuit. This order applies to all attorneys, parties, witnesses, law enforcement and employees of all agencies. There has been misconception that certain persons are immune from the previous orders in this circuit concerning same. To state it clearly, no one is immune from such order(s) regardless of his/her employment or involvement in any case or proceeding.

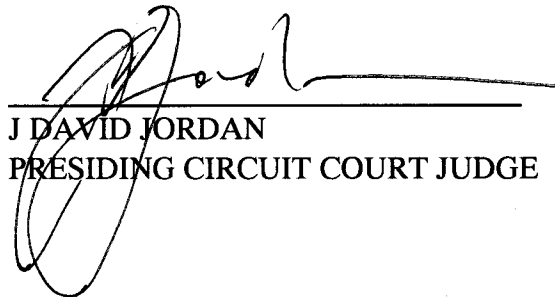
Any person disobeying or defying any order related to the pandemic in this circuit is subject to the contempt powers of the courts. Such act will be considered by the court involved as a possible direct act of contempt and appropriate punishment will be considered. All persons are specifically ORDERED to only sit in a chair or seat as designated by marking or made

available. Anyone removing tape from a chair in a courtroom intended to insure social distancing will immediately be required to show cause why he/she should not be held in direct contempt of court.

Attorneys in cases set for hearing shall exchange exhibits prior to arriving in court on the day of hearing. Attorneys shall have marked for identification any exhibit(s) prior to a hearing. Attorneys shall NOT hand any exhibit or tangible item to the court reporter. Court reporters shall not mark any exhibit for identification. Exhibits, once entered into evidence, shall be placed in one area of counsel table by the attorney. The court reporter shall collect all exhibits at one time after the hearing.

Nothing in this Order terminates any provision of any prior order in this circuit directed to the Covid-19 Pandemic. All prior administrative orders entered in this circuit in response to the pandemic remain in full force and effect.

This the 2^d day of July, 2020.



J DAVID JORDAN
PRESIDING CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE