

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF SHELBY COUNTY, ALABAMA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER MODIFYING COURT PROCEEDINGS
THROUGH JANUARY 18, 2021, FOR SHELBY COUNTY STATE
COURTS (18th Judicial Circuit)

WHEREAS, on December 9, 2020, Governor Kay Ivey extended through January 22, 2021, Alabama's state of emergency and "Safer at Home" health order, and pursuant to the Supreme Court of Alabama's granting to this court the authority to make decisions regarding the safety and welfare of all court personnel in all courts within the circuit and to protect court employees and other individuals accessing all courts within the circuit, the court hereby ORDERS as follows:

- 1) The Jury Trial Week of January 11, 2021, is hereby CANCELLED.
- 2) All in-person hearings, with limited exceptions, are SUSPENDED through January 18, 2021. Those exceptions are:
 - Proceedings necessary to protect constitutional rights of criminal defendants. This includes bond-related matters and plea agreements for incarcerated people.
 - Proceedings related to protection and abuse.
 - Proceedings related to emergency child custody and protection orders.
 - Department of Human Resources emergency matters related to child protection.
 - Proceedings related to petitions for temporary injunctive relief.
 - Proceedings related to emergency mental health orders.
 - Proceedings related to emergency protection of elderly or vulnerable people.
 - Proceedings directly related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
 - Any emergent proceeding as needed by law enforcement.
 - *Specially-set bench trials, provided that no more than one such trial per courtroom is set during any given session of court.*
- 3) All State Offices in the Shelby County Courthouse shall maintain regular business operations, subject to the exceptions set out herein.
- 4) The Circuit and District Judges shall continue to maintain complete discretion over the management of cases assigned to them, including the authority to conduct in-person hearings in cases which involve one or more of the exceptions listed above. In-person hearings in cases NOT involving one of the exceptions listed above are prohibited.
- 5) It shall be the responsibility of the individual judges to identify those cases assigned to them that involve one of the exceptions listed above, and to issue

appropriate orders therein, including, but not limited to, orders setting those cases for in-person hearing.

- 6) When a judge has set an in-person hearing, the only persons permitted in the courtroom are the judge, the parties, the attorneys, court personnel, and persons whose presence is deemed necessary by the judge.
- 7) Attorneys practicing in this circuit should closely monitor the Alafile system for case updates. Notifications will be entered as orders on a case-by-case basis, and attorneys receiving such orders shall promptly notify their clients.
- 8) Individuals not represented by an attorney who wish to obtain information regarding the status of the case in which they are involved may contact the Office of the Circuit Clerk at (205) 669-3760.
- 9) Any person with a pending criminal or traffic case who is not currently in custody and who received an order to appear issued BEFORE today's date SHALL NOT come to the courthouse without first consulting with your attorney, or with the Circuit Clerk at (205) 669-3760 if you are not represented by an attorney.
- 10) The undersigned has previously entered an Order prohibiting certain persons from entering the courthouse and providing for their receipt of services; those prohibitions and provisions remain in full force and effect, and are posted at each of the public entrances to the courthouse.

Any provision of any administrative order previously entered by this court not in conflict with the provisions established herein remain in full force and effect. The Clerk of Court shall spread a copy of this order among the minutes of the court, post a copy of this order on her official website, <https://18jc.alacourt.gov/index.aspx>, and provide a copy of this order to the Alabama Administrative Office of Courts.

DONE and ORDERED this the 9th day of December, 2020.

/s/ WILLIAM H. BOSTICK, III
Presiding Circuit Judge
18th Judicial Circuit