

**IN THE TWENTY-THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
MADISON COUNTY, ALABAMA**

**ORDER**

As a result of the positive coronavirus cases and Madison County, additional safeguards are necessary at this time to protect the citizens of Madison County, Court staff and attorneys. The limitations and exceptions thereto 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. The Courts are evaluating the ability to resume trials regularly and will issue additional orders accordingly. It is therefore **ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED** as follows.

- A. All Circuit Court jury trial dockets for January and February 2021 are hereby suspended immediately.
- B. All District Traffic, Misdemeanor, Small claims and District Civil dockets are hereby suspended immediately and remain suspended until further notice.

The following cases shall continue to be heard although the parties are encouraged to conduct such hearings virtually.

- 1. Proceedings necessary to protect the constitutional rights of criminal defendants including bond-related matters.
- 2. Proceedings related to relief from abuse, including but not limited to orders of protection
- 3. Proceedings related to emergency child custody orders
- 4. DHR emergency matters related to child protection
- 5. Proceedings related to emergency mental health orders
- 6. Proceedings related to emergency protection of elderly or vulnerable persons
- 7. Proceedings related to Unlawful Detainer actions
- 8. Proceedings related to Domestic matters.
- 9. Proceedings presenting exigent circumstances

Represented parties shall immediately contact their attorney. Attorneys and unrepresented persons shall contact the appropriate judge via telephone or email to seek further instructions if necessary. If you do not have contact information for the appropriate judge, contact the court administrator's office at 256-532-3641 and [kim.mckoy@alacourt.gov](mailto:kim.mckoy@alacourt.gov)

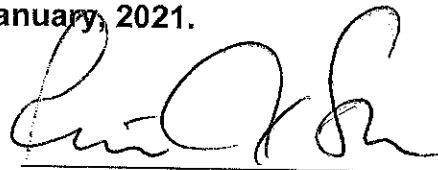
Masks shall be worn by all participants appearing in the Courts of Madison County, the Circuit Clerk's Office and any offices associated therewith until further notice. The mask or face covering shall be sufficient to cover the individuals nose and mouth. Courtrooms will have designated seating to maintain a six (6) foot separation at

all times. Therefore, individuals that are not parties to an action will be limited in their ability to be present in the courtroom. Witnesses shall be placed on standby per the instructions from the individual judge to whom the case is assigned.

Any person who is ill or 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 diagnosed with COVID-19 and notify the Court immediately.

This Order is intended to be interpreted broadly for the protection of the public from risks associated with COVID-19. This Order will remain in effect pending further Order of this Court.

Done and ORDERED this the 15th day of January, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth Ann Hall', written over a horizontal line.

Ruth Ann Hall  
PRESIDING CIRCUIT JUDGE