

**IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI**

*In re: Emergency Order Related to Coronavirus (COVID-19)*

.....  
**MARCH 16, 2020**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**  
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On March 13, 2020, Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America, declared a national emergency due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The Mississippi Supreme Court and Chief Justice, Michael K. Randolph, in his capacity as chief administrative officer of all courts of this state, including all municipal courts, on March 13, 2020, issued Emergency Administrative Order [230781] and further on March 15, 2020, issued Emergency Administrative Order-2 [230786], both of which are attached hereto as Exhibits "1" and "2" to this Administrative Order and adopted as though fully set forth herein.

In light of the present national emergency, the Court does, *sua sponte*, and in accordance with the administrative authority granted by the Mississippi Supreme Court does find and order as follows:

1. Except as provided below, all Court dockets shall be suspended through and including April 10, 2020. The Court Clerk shall be authorized to reset these matters without the necessity of a separate motion and/or order of continuance. Defendants not represented by counsel shall contact the Court Clerk to reset their matters. Defense counsel shall

contact the Court Clerk to obtain reset dates.

2. All outstanding subpoenas returnable for any docket through and including April 10, 2020, shall be carried over to the reset date and, if a subpoena has already been served, there will be no necessity to re-issue and re-serve any such subpoena.
3. The Court enters a temporary stay of execution of outstanding warrants for Contempt of Court (either Failure to Appear and/or Failure to Comply) and law enforcement officers are requested by the Court to advise any such individual they may encounter during this time of the existence of the warrant and direct them to contact the Court Clerk to set a court date for the hearing of the contempt matter. This stay shall not apply to any other outstanding arrest warrants. All warrants temporarily stayed by this order which are otherwise disposed of pursuant to separate order will be reinstated as active upon the expiration of this Order and execution shall forthwith thereafter issue.
4. The Court and the Court Clerk's office will continue to operate as is practicable and in keeping with due regard for public safety.
5. Any emergency hearings on matters or matters which need to be specially heard will be convened as directed by the Court on a case specific basis and, to the extent possible, will be conducted telephonically.
6. Any hearings on petitions for Domestic Abuse Protection Orders shall be conducted telephonically.
7. Any requests by any individual, attorney, or law enforcement officer for further or additional relief will be handled on a case specific basis. The Court will conduct such matters telephonically or through the use of email or other digital/electronic means.

8. The Court reserves determination of any further action.
9. This Order will expire at 12:00 p.m. on April 13, 2020 unless extended or amended by further order of this Court.

SO ORDERED AND ADJUDGED March 16, 2020 (7:20pm).



MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE



**Serial: 230781**

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF MISSISSIPPI**

**No. 2020-AD-00001-SCT**

**IN RE: EMERGENCY ORDER RELATED TO  
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

**EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency due to the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19). The Supreme Court and the Chief Justice, in his capacity as chief administrative officer of all courts in the state, find that certain emergency actions as set forth hereinafter are required. Additionally, due to the pandemic nature of this emergency and the rapidly changing circumstances, the Court will continue to monitor this situation and may enter additional orders as necessary.

All courts are directed to prepare for potential infection in their communities. While local judges and their staffs are in the best position to, with the assistance of attorneys, measure risk, fears, and attitudes in their communities, this Court directs compliance with the following guidelines to minimize public health risks from coronavirus (COVID-19).

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. In compliance with the Constitution, all state courts – municipal, justice, county, chancery, circuit, and appellate courts – will remain open for business to ensure courts fulfill their constitutional and statutory duties. See Miss. Const. Art. 3, §§ 24, 25, 26, and 26A. Courts should continue normal business matters as much as possible. Any orders from trial courts contrary to this Order are vacated to that extent.
2. In compliance with the State Health Department, courts shall not permit aggregate gatherings of over 200 people. Courts should consider the avoidance of any proceedings that involve vulnerable persons or require witnesses or parties to travel from an infected area, increasing the chances of transmission of the disease.
3. Individual judges have discretion to control their general dockets and are authorized to instruct their clerks that jury summonses may not be sent to jurors which would be returnable to any date prior to April 13, 2020.

EXHIBIT "1"

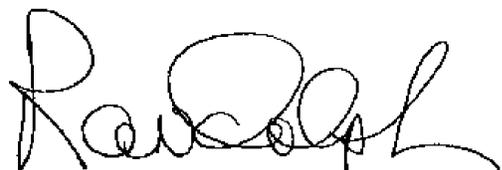
4. Individual judges have the discretion to postpone any trials on their own docket scheduled through April 10, 2020.
5. Courts shall limit the number of people summoned for jury duty to the minimum amount of persons necessary.
6. Jurors who have traveled to areas with a high concentration of confirmed coronavirus cases shall contact the court before reporting for jury duty. Jurors who have been diagnosed with an illness or who are primary caregivers for a vulnerable person who has been diagnosed with an illness shall contact the court by telephone. They shall not come to the courthouse before speaking with court personnel. Jurors who disregard this Order shall be immediately released and sent home. Additionally, all attorneys and parties shall take the same precautions.
7. All court proceedings shall be limited to attorneys, parties, witnesses, security officers, members of the press, and other necessary persons, as determined by the trial judge.
8. The trial courts are hereby authorized to exercise their sound discretion in extending deadlines, rescheduling hearings and trials and any other matters by case specific actions or by general orders.
9. Each judge conducting drug intervention courts is authorized to modify the scheduling of drug testing and home-supervision visits for the next 30 days as they see fit.
10. Courts shall communicate effectively with the local bar, local officials, the public, and the state.
11. The payment and/reimbursement of out-of-state travel is suspended for judicial employees and judges.
12. Courts are encouraged to work with those responsible for cleaning and maintaining courthouses to ensure compliance with enhanced cleaning requirements. Although not confirmed it has been reported that COVID-19 can remain in the air for up to three hours and live on surfaces such as plastic and stainless steel for up to three days, copper surfaces four hours, and cardboard for up to twenty-four hours.
13. Visitors to all courthouses shall follow the recommendations of health officials to protect themselves and others from the spread of COVID-19. Those include washing hands frequently with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds and maintaining a safe social distance from others.

14. For current information, stay aware of statewide updates. *See* [https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/\\_static/14,0,420.html](https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420.html) and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

It is the Judiciary's responsibility to ensure constitutional rights are protected in a manner consistent with the general welfare and health of the citizens of this State. This Order may be amended, extended, or otherwise modified as circumstances dictate.

SO ORDERED.

**DIGITAL SIGNATURE**  
**Order#:** 230781  
**Sig Serial:** 100001303  
**Org:** SC  
**Date:** 03/13/2020

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Michael K. Randolph, Chief Justice

**Serial: 230786**

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF MISSISSIPPI**

**No. 2020-AD-00001-SCT**

**IN RE: EMERGENCY ORDER RELATED TO  
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

**EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER–2**

On March 15, 2020, the Center for Disease Control (CDC), addressing the national emergency declared by the President on March 13, 2020, issued its “Interim Guidance for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).” The CDC recommends the cancellation or postponement of all in-person events that consist of 50 people or more for the next eight weeks, as such events and mass gatherings can contribute to the spread of COVID-19. Their recommendation does not apply to day-to-day operations of organizations, such as schools and businesses.

The Supreme Court has previously found that certain emergency actions are required in light of the pandemic nature of this emergency and the rapidly changing circumstances. In my capacity as chief administrative officer of all courts in this state and consistent with the first Emergency Administrative Order, I find that the following modifications and/or amendments are required.

I find the CDC’s Interim Guidance to be the latest information available to the Court. I find it is necessary for the general welfare and health of the citizens of this state to further restrict the size of gatherings in our courts, for the next eight weeks. This step is

EXHIBIT "2"

to hinder the introduction of the virus into the courthouses of this state and to slow the spread of infection into our communities.

The March 13, 2020 Emergency Administrative Order is amended and modified as follows:

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. To comply with the CDC's Interim Guidance of March 15, 2020, courts shall not permit gatherings of more than 50 people beyond the persons involved in the day-to-day operations of the courts. Courts shall not conduct any proceedings that require witnesses or parties to travel from an infected area or that involve vulnerable persons, increasing the chances of transmission of the disease.

2. Individual judges have discretion to control their general dockets and are authorized to instruct their clerks that jury summonses may not be sent to jurors which would be returnable to any date prior to May 18, 2020.

3. Individual judges have the discretion to postpone any trials on their own docket scheduled through May 15, 2020.

4. Parties, jurors, attorneys, and witnesses who have traveled to areas with confirmed coronavirus cases shall contact the clerk of the court by telephone before coming to that court. Those who have been diagnosed with the virus or who are primary caregivers for a vulnerable person who has been diagnosed with the virus shall contact the clerk of the court by telephone. The aforementioned shall not come to the courthouse before speaking with court personnel.

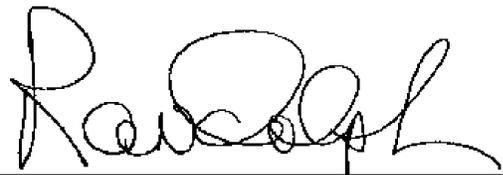
5. Each judge conducting drug intervention courts is authorized to modify the scheduling of drug testing and home-supervision visits for the next 60 days as they see fit.

All other portions of the first Emergency Administrative Order that have not been amended or modified by this Order remain in full force and effect.

It is the Judiciary's responsibility to ensure constitutional rights are protected during this national emergency. This Order may be amended, extended, or otherwise modified as circumstances dictate.

SO ORDERED.

**DIGITAL SIGNATURE**  
**Order#:** 230786  
**Sig Serial:** 100001306  
**Org:** SC  
**Date:** 03/15/2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randolph", written over a horizontal line.

Michael K. Randolph, Chief Justice