

STATE OF ALABAMA )  
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON )

FILED IN OPEN COURT

This 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 20 20  
ELISABETH A. FRENCH  
PRESIDING CIRCUIT JUDGE

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**TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ALABAMA**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. AO-2020-032**

In accordance with the Supreme Court of Alabama's Order dated May 13, 2020, and pursuant to the authority vested in the undersigned as Presiding Judge of the Tenth Judicial Circuit of Alabama, the suspension of non-emergency in-person hearings is hereby extended to June 15, 2020. This extension is based upon the increasing numbers of confirmed COVID-19 cases and related deaths in Jefferson County.

Emergency in-person hearings have continued and substantial work has taken place by the Judges of this Circuit to advance cases during the pandemic by teleconferencing and Alacourt's Zoom. Judges in their discretion may conduct in-person non-jury court proceedings prior to June 15, 2020 in accordance with the safety guidelines below and Orders issued by the Supreme Court of Alabama.

In order to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 health pandemic on the public, Judges, attorneys and court personnel, the following measures shall be implemented effective May 18, 2020 in all Jefferson County circuit courts, district courts, juvenile courts, municipal courts and probate courts:

- Six (6) feet of social distancing shall be observed by all members of the public, attorneys and court personnel at all times and at all locations in the courthouses and courtrooms.
- All persons entering the courthouses and courtrooms are required to wear appropriate face covering. Judges may grant permission for removal of face coverings for anyone in his or her courtroom in each Judge's sole discretion. Judges may also require single-use gloves for all in court proceedings.
- Each Judge shall determine and post outside of his or her courtroom the maximum occupancy level for their courtrooms and adjacent meeting areas.
- Judges are encouraged to schedule special settings over general docket calls.
- The use of electronic document exchange for exhibits is encouraged consistent with this Court's Virtual Proceeding Administrative Order No. AO-2020-031.
- Continued use of teleconferencing and Alacourt's Zoom are encouraged for circuit, district and juvenile courts.
- Judges are encouraged to provide public access to open court hearings by entering Orders containing Alacourt Zoom log-in information or other available technology.

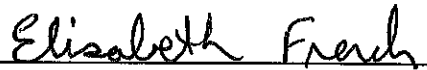
- COVID-19 symptomatic inmates for circuit and district court shall be transported to vacant courtroom(s) in the Criminal Justice Center with proper security, personal protective equipment and enhanced cleaning requests to County officials.
- To accommodate the need for social distancing, the Criminal Justice Center lower level courtroom is reserved for Drug Court on Thursdays until further notice.
- All Judges may secure their chambers so as to limit access.

These procedures are designed for the safety and welfare of the public, Judges, attorneys and court personnel.

All previously scheduled jury weeks are canceled until September 14, 2020.

This Order may be extended based upon guidance from the Supreme Court of Alabama and local public health officials.

**DONE AND ORDERED** on this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020.

  
 Elisabeth A. French  
 PRESIDING JUDGE  
 10<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Via Email Distribution:

Tom Parker, Chief Justice  
 Rich Hobson, Administrative Director of Courts  
 Julia Jordan Weller, Clerk, Supreme Court of Alabama  
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 All District Judges, Tenth Judicial Circuit  
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