

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA
IN RE: COVID-19 PANDEMIC EMERGENCY RESPONSE

March 13, 2020

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER SUSPENDING ALL IN-PERSON COURT
PROCEEDINGS FOR THE NEXT THIRTY DAYS**

The President of the United States having declared a national emergency and the Governor of Alabama having declared a state of emergency for the State of Alabama amid the Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") pandemic, the Supreme Court of Alabama, pursuant to the authority vested in it under Article VI, §§ 139, 140, and 150, Ala. Const. 1901, hereby declares a state of emergency for the entire Judicial Branch of the State of Alabama.

The local and state courts of the State of Alabama are open and will remain open under all circumstances, subject to the provisions of this order.

Under the constitutional, statutory, and inherent authority of the Supreme Court, we adopt the following provisions. All in-person proceedings in all state and local courts in Alabama, including, but not limited to, proceedings in the circuit court, district court (including cases on the small claims docket), juvenile court, municipal court, probate court, and appellate courts, are suspended beginning Monday, March 16, 2020 through Thursday, April 16, 2020, subject to the exceptions below.

Exceptions to this suspension of in-person court proceedings include, but are not limited to:

- Proceedings necessary to protect constitutional rights of criminal defendants, including bond-related matters and plea agreements for incarcerated individuals.
- Civil and criminal jury trials that are in progress as of March 13, 2020.
- Proceedings related to protection from 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 persons.
- Proceedings directly related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Any emergent proceeding as needed by law enforcement.
- Other exceptions as approved by the Chief Justice.

The presiding judge or the designee of the presiding judge of each judicial circuit is authorized to determine the manner in which in-person court proceedings for the exceptions listed above are to be conducted. Other exceptions to the suspension of in-person court proceedings must be approved by the Chief Justice. Any permitted in-court proceedings shall be limited to attorneys, parties, witnesses, security officers, and other necessary persons, as determined by the trial judge.

Judges are charged with the responsibility of ensuring that core constitutional functions and rights are protected. Additionally, court clerks are charged with ensuring that court functions continue. Nevertheless, all judges and court clerks are urged to limit in-person courtroom contact as much as possible by utilizing available technologies, including electronic filing, teleconferencing, and videoconferencing. Any Alabama state or local rule, criminal or civil, that impedes a judge's or court clerk's ability to utilize available technologies to limit in-person contact is suspended until April 16, 2020.

This order expressly does not prohibit court proceedings by telephone, video, teleconferencing, or other means that do not involve in-person contact. This order does not affect courts' consideration of matters that can be resolved without in-person proceedings.

Any deadlines that are set by or subject to regulation by this Court that are set to expire between March 16, 2020 and April 16, 2020, are hereby extended to April 20, 2020. This Court cannot extend any statutory period of repose or statute of limitations period.

Orders of protection and temporary injunctions that would otherwise expire between March 16, 2020, and April 16, 2020, are hereby extended until April 16, 2020, unless the trial court elects to enter an order to the contrary.

This order is subject to modification, revision, or rescission by the Supreme Court at any time during the time periods stated herein.

Parker, C.J., Bolin, Shaw, Wise, Bryan, Stewart, and Mitchell, JJ., concur.

Witness my hand and seal this the 13th day of March, 2020.


Julia Jordan Weller
Clerk, Supreme Court of Alabama

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA
IN RE: COVID-19 PANDEMIC EMERGENCY RESPONSE

March 15, 2020

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2 PERTAINING TO THE SUSPENSION OF ALL
IN-PERSON COURT PROCEEDINGS FOR THE NEXT THIRTY DAYS**

On March 13, 2020, this Court issued an administrative order declaring a state of emergency for the entire judicial branch for the State of Alabama amid the Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") pandemic. The Court issues the following order to modify or to otherwise clarify provisions of the March 13, 2020, order.

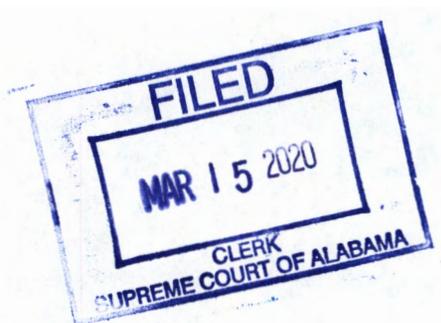
The March 13, 2020, order is limited to in-person courtroom proceedings. It has no effect on out-of-court activities in civil cases, including, but not limited to, depositions and mediations. Such out-of-court activities should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and this Court encourages all parties and attorneys to work together to implement appropriate social-distancing practices. Any dispute about an out-of-court activity related to a pending case should be directed to the court that is adjudicating the case.

Parker, C.J., and Bolin, Shaw, Wise, Bryan, Stewart, and Mitchell, JJ., concur.

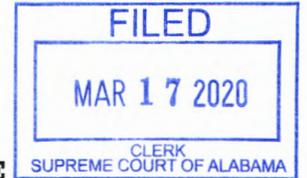
Witnessed this 15th day of March 2020.



Julia Jordan Weller
Clerk of Court
Supreme Court of Alabama



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA
IN RE: COVID-19 PANDEMIC EMERGENCY RESPONSE



March 17, 2020

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 3 PERTAINING TO THE BRIEFING AND
FILING DEADLINES IN THE APPELLATE COURTS.

On March 13, 2020, this Court issued an administrative order declaring a state of emergency for the entire judicial branch for the State of Alabama amid the COVID-19 pandemic. In that order this Court suspended all in-person Court proceedings for the next 30 days.

The Court also stated that any deadlines set by or subject to regulation by this Court that are set to expire between March 16, 2020, and April 16, 2020, are hereby extended to April 20, 2020. This provision was not intended to apply to documents or filings which may be electronically filed with the three Appellate Courts. However, the Court does suspend such deadlines for the Appellate Courts for one week until March 23, 2020, whereby all such deadlines will resume.

However, this Court's order shall not be interpreted as extending any statutory period of repose, any statute of limitations, or jurisdictional limitations provided for by statute or rule.

Parker, C.J., and Wise, Bryan, Sellers, and Stewart, JJ., concur.

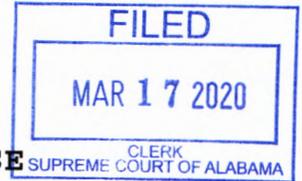
Witness my hand and seal this the 17th day of March, 2020.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julia Jordan Weller".

Julia Jordan Weller

Clerk, Supreme Court of Alabama

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA
IN RE: COVID-19 PANDEMIC EMERGENCY RESPONSE



March 17, 2020

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 4 PERTAINING TO THE REQUIREMENT TO
FILE HARD COPIES OF BRIEFS IN THE APPELLATE COURTS.

In consideration of the President of the United States' declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic and because both the President and the Governor of the State of Alabama declared a state of emergency, this Court recognizes the risks and hardship that filing paper copies of briefs and appendices may pose. As a result, this Court suspends the requirement for filing hard copies of these pleadings for a period of 30 days. While original documents must still be sent by mail or electronically filed, the accompanying hard copies are not required to be filed until April 17, 2020.

Parker, C.J., and Bolin, Shaw, Wise, Bryan, Sellers, Mendheim, Stewart and Mitchell, JJ., concur.

Witness my hand and seal this the 17th day of March, 2020.

Julia Jordan Weller

Clerk, Supreme Court of Alabama

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA
IN RE: COVID-19 PANDEMIC EMERGENCY RESPONSE
April 2, 2020

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 5:
EXTENDING ORDERS AND DEADLINES CONCERNING THE SUSPENSION OF
IN-PERSON PROCEEDINGS UNTIL APRIL 30, 2020

This Court hereby extends until **April 30, 2020**, the state of emergency for Alabama's Unified Judicial System initially declared by order dated March 13, 2020. The Court hereby adopts the administrative orders issued by the Chief Justice dated March 16, 2020, March 18, 2020, and March 24, 2020. Any deadlines in the Court's Administrative Orders that are set to expire on April 16, 17, or 20, 2020, are hereby extended through **April 30, 2020**, and the orders shall remain in full force and effect through **April 30, 2020**. Furthermore, trial courts shall continue to utilize available technologies such as teleconferencing and videoconferencing to conduct hearings when it is practical and feasible to do so.

Parker, C.J., and Bolin, Shaw, Wise, Bryan, Mendheim, Stewart and Mitchell, JJ., concur.

Witness my hand and seal this the 2nd day of April, 2020.



Julia Jordan Weller
Clerk of Court
Supreme Court of Alabama