

**28TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT EMERGENCY ORDER
RELATIVE TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

In light of the COVID-19 public health emergency declaration issued by Governor John Bel Edwards on March 13, 2020, the recommendations issued on March 14, 2020, by the Louisiana Supreme Court, and the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control issued on March 15, 2020, the Twenty-Eighth Judicial District Court issues the following Order for this jurisdiction:

All trials and hearings set for any date between March 17, 2020, and March 27, 2020, are hereby continued and will be rescheduled by Order requested by the parties. Excepted from this Order are those matters listed hereafter:

- 1) *Civil protective orders, emergency child custody matters pursuant to article 3945 of the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure, proceedings for children removed from their home by emergency court order, and emergency commitment hearings are not subject to this Order continuing civil matters.*
- 2) *Criminal initial appearances (72 hour hearings) for adults and juveniles and bond hearings will continue as under normal circumstances. Adult proceedings will be conducted through use of video appearances.*

Special precautions will be utilized by the Court to achieve separation of people and limitations of numbers in conducting these matters requiring expedited consideration.


All jurors summoned to report for jury service on March 23, 2020, are released from service and shall not report to the LaSalle Parish courthouse for jury duty on the appointed date.

Anyone set to appear in criminal court between March 17, 2020, and March 27, 2020, is excused, as the case is now continued. The matters will be reset on Motion by the LaSalle Parish District Attorney's office, and notice will be provided to the defendant and/or counsel.

This Order does not affect the authority of the judge of this Court to perform any acts in any matters as deemed necessary in light of the exigency of the circumstances and with regard to the health and welfare of the public.

The courthouse and judge's office in LaSalle Parish shall remain open during normal business hours, subject to future orders prepared in consultation with the LaSalle Parish Police Jury. The public may access the services of the court in accordance with this Order and public health guidelines.

This Order shall remain in effect until 4:30 p.m. on March 27, 2020 or until further Order of this Court.



J. Christopher Peters, District Judge