

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISHES OF EAST CARROLL, MADISON AND TENSAS
SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

In Re:

COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES
CREATED BY COVID-19
(CORONAVIRUS)

ORDER

This General Order is being issued in response to the recent outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Louisiana, and throughout the United States. In light of Governor Edwards' declaration of a public health emergency and his executive order concerning public gatherings as well as the COVID 19 order issued by the Louisiana Supreme Court on March 16, 2020, the Sixth Judicial District Court, in and for the Parishes of East Carroll, Madison and Tensas issues this order. Our purpose is to address this public health crisis in a way that protects the health and safety of the public and of everyone at our Court facilities, while at the same time, to the extent possible, maintains access to the Court.

Given the risk posed to the public, and in consideration of the public health recommendation, it is hereby ORDERED that, effective beginning Tuesday, March 17, 2020, 8:00 a.m. through Friday, April 10, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.:

- 1) All jury trials, both civil and criminal, are hereby continued, to be re-set by Order;
- 2) All grand jury proceedings in this District are hereby continued, to be re-convened by Order;
- 3) All criminal trials, hearings, and court appearances are hereby continued, to be reset by order, except for initial appearances (72 hour hearings), arraignments for incarcerated persons only and bond hearings;
- 4) The delays in all criminal cases created by this Order shall constitute "just cause", pursuant to La. Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 701;
- 5) All civil trials, juvenile hearings and court appearances set for any date between the date of this Order and April 10, 2020 are hereby continued to a date to be reset by local order, except for hearings related to the following: civil protective orders, child in need of care proceedings, emergency child custody matters, proceedings for children removed from their home by emergency court order, proceedings related to emergency interdictions and mental health orders, matters of public health related to this crisis and other emergency

matters necessary to protect the health, safety and liberty of individuals as determined by each court;

- 6) All Non-support matters are hereby continued, to be reset by order;
- 7) The court orders the attached *Court Notice, Coronavirus COVID-19* be posted where it is easily visible at all public entrances to the Courthouses. Anyone attempting to enter the Courthouses in violation of the protocols contained therein will be denied entry by a Court Security Officer and may be subject to punishment for contempt of court;
- 8) This Order does not affect the Court's ability to consider civil or criminal matters that can be resolved without hearing.

The East Carroll, Madison and Tensas Parish Courthouses remain open during regular business hours. The public may continue to utilize Court services in accordance with this Order and while following all applicable public health guidelines.

This Order remains in effect until 5:00 p.m. on April 10, 2020, or until further orders of this Court.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2020.


MICHAEL E. LANCASTER, CHIEF JUDGE


JUDGE LAURIE R. BRISTER