

THIRTY-SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

PARISH OF TERREBONNE

STATE OF LOUISIANA

**EN BANC ORDER
FOR THE
THIRTY-SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
IN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS (COVID-19)
COURT CLOSURE**


SITTING EN BANC, THE JUDGES OF THE THIRTY-SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT DO HEREBY issue this Order in response to the covid-19 (coronavirus) outbreak in Louisiana. On March 11, 2020, the Governor of the State of Louisiana declared a State of Emergency. On March 12, 2020, the President of Terrebonne Parish declared a Parish-wide State of Emergency. On March 13, 2020 the President of the United States declared a National Emergency. The World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") has described the outbreak in the United States as a "rapidly evolving situation" and is providing continuous guidance regarding appropriate public and private responses to COVID-19. The CDC's guidance includes multiple types of mitigation strategies, including but not limited to social distancing, as well as other strategies generally aimed at reducing or avoiding exposure to infected individuals which the Court has carefully considered. To combat the spread of the disease, given the severity of risk posed to the public, court staff, and other court agencies, and considering the CDC's advisements to take precautions by limiting exposure to the virus, and the Order of the Louisiana Supreme Court dated March 16, 2020, the Judges of the Thirty-second Judicial District Court will be limiting access to the courthouse effective 4:30 p.m. on March 16, 2020 until March 27, 2020. The following emergency court procedures, effective March 16, 2020, will be in place:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:


1. All jury trials, both civil and criminal, scheduled to commence between the date of this Order and March 27, 2020, are hereby continued to a date to be reset no earlier than March 30, 2020.

2. All civil trials, hearings and court appearances set for any date between the date of this Order and March 27, 2020, except for hearings related to 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, are hereby continued to a date to be reset by the court.
3. Criminal initial appearances for adults and juveniles, arraignments for incarcerated individuals and bond hearings shall continue as scheduled and shall be conducted with the use of telephone and video conferencing whenever possible.
4. The delays in all criminal matters caused by this Order shall constitute "just cause," pursuant to Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure Article 701.
5. All public access to the courthouse is hereby restricted. Any person affected by this restriction shall contact the office they are attempting to access via telephone.
6. This Order expressly does not prohibit any court proceedings by telephone, video, teleconferencing, or any other means that does not involve in-person contact.
7. This Order does not affect consideration of matters that can be resolved without in-person proceedings.
8. The provisions of this Order shall be extended or modified as needed and agreed upon by this court.


THUS DONE and SIGNED in chambers, in Houma, Louisiana, on this 18th day of March 2020.




George J. Larke, Jr.
Chief Judge, Division "A"



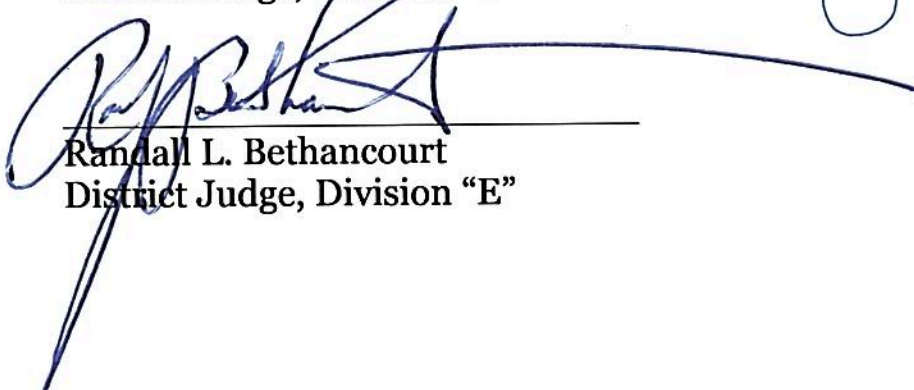
John R. Walker
District Judge, Division "B"



Juan W. Pickett
District Judge, Division "C"



David W. Arceneaux
District Judge, Division "D"



Randall L. Bethancourt
District Judge, Division "E"