

SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

PARISH OF CONCORDIA

STATE OF LOUISIANA

**EMERGENCY ORDER RELATIVE TO THE
COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

Considering the recent outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Louisiana, Governor John Bel Edwards declaration of a public health emergency in Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020, President Donald Trump's declaration of a national emergency on March 13, 2020, and the order issued by the Louisiana Supreme Court on March 16, 2020, in consideration of public health recommendations to reduce the risk of exposure to the virus and slowing the spread of the disease while balancing the need to maintain access to Louisiana courts, the Seventh Judicial District Court issues the following Order for this jurisdiction:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that all jury trials, both civil and criminal, scheduled to commence between the date of this order and March 27, 2020, are hereby continued, to be re-set by Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all trials, hearings, and court appearances, civil and criminal, set between the date of this order 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, 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.

- 2) Criminal initial appearances (72 hour hearings) for adults and juveniles,

Seventh Judicial District District Attorney's Office, and notice will be provided to the defendant and/or counsel.

The Court will utilize all available technologies, including alternative means of filing, teleconferencing, email and videoconferencing to limit in-person courtroom contact as much as possible. Special precautions will be utilized by the Court to achieve separation of people and limitation of numbers in conducting any matters requiring expedited consideration.

Court proceedings by telephone, video, teleconferencing, or any other means that do not involve in-person contact are expressly not prohibited. The Court may consider matters that can be resolved without in-person proceedings.

This Order does not affect the authority of the judges 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.

Given the public health concerns and the necessity of taking action to slow the spread of the disease, the continuances occasioned by this Order serve the ends of justice and outweigh the best interest of the public and the defendant in a speedy trial. Therefore, the time periods of such continuance shall be excluded from speedy trial computations pursuant to law, including but not limited to those set forth in the Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure and the Louisiana Children's Code, and presumptively constitute just cause.

The Judge's Office in Catahoula and Concordia Parish shall remain open during normal business hours, subject to future orders prepared in consultation with the Louisiana Supreme Court and the Catahoula and Concordia Parish Police Juries. 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

**SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
PARISHES OF CONCORDIA/CATAHOULA
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

AMENDED EMERGENCY ORDER


Considering the need to amend the Order of this Court dated March 19th and 20th, 2020,
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the date of March 27, 2020 as it pertains to the
continuance of any trials, hearings, or court appearances, civil or criminal, be amended from
March 27, 2020 to April 13, 2020.

This Order shall remain in effect until April 13, 2020 or until further Order of this Court.

VIDALIA, LOUISIANA this 20th day of March, 2020.



KATHY JOHNSON
CHIEF JUDGE



JOHN C. REEVES
DISTRICT JUDGE