

TWENTY-SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
IN AND FOR THE PARSHES OF BOSSIER AND WEBSTER
STATE OF LOUISIANA

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 Proclamation Number 33 JBE 2020, as well as guidance from the Louisiana Supreme Court, the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court, in and for the Parishes of Bossier and Webster, issues this Order. Our purpose is to address this public health concern in a way that protects the health and safety of the public and 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 recommendations, it is hereby ORDERED that, effective beginning Monday, March 23, 2020, 1:00 p.m. through Monday, April 13, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

- 1) All jury trials, both civil and criminal, are hereby continued, to be reset 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 or notice from the Office of the District Attorney, except for initial appearances (72 hour hearings), arraignments for incarcerated persons only and bond hearings;
- 4) All hearings for incarcerated persons shall take place via video unless otherwise directed by the Court;

FILED


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DEPUTY CLERK
TWENTY-SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
BOSSIER PARISH, LOUISIANA

- 5) The delays in all criminal cases created by this Order shall constitute 'just cause', pursuant to La. Code of Criminal Procedure art. 701;
- 6) All Civil trials, hearings, and court appearances are hereby continued, except for hearings related to the following: civil protective orders, emergency child custody pursuant to La. Code of Procedure art. 3945, emergency interdictions, and matters of public health related to COVID-19;
- 7) All Non-Support matters are hereby continued;
- 8) All Juvenile and Drug Court matters are hereby continued with the exception of proceedings for juveniles who have been arrested and are being held at the Juvenile Detention Center and proceedings for children who have been removed from their homes by the Department of Children and Family Services.
- 9) This Order does not affect the ability to consider civil or criminal matters that can be resolved without a hearing.
- 10) The Bossier Parish and Webster Parish Clerk of Court and Judges' Office will be open during the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. for the purpose of receiving emergency filings related to those denoted in Paragraph (6). All other filings should be submitted via the e-filing systems or via fax as defined by the Clerks of Court.

This Order remains in effect until 5:00 p.m. on April 13 2020, or until further orders of this Court

THUS DONE AND SIGNED at Benton, Bossier Parish, Louisiana,
this 23rd day of March, 2020.



Hon. Michael Werren
Chief Judge