

**SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA**

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**O R D E R**

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Acting under the authority of Article V, Section 1 of Constitution of 1974, and the inherent power of this Court, and considering the need to amend the Order of this Court dated March 16, 2020,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:


1. All jury trials, both civil and criminal, scheduled to commence in any Louisiana state court between the date of this Order and April 13, 2020, are hereby continued to a date to be reset by local order no earlier than April 14, 2020.
2. Except as otherwise provided herein, all civil trials, hearings and court appearances set for any date between the date of this Order and April 13, 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.
3. All other provisions set forth in the March 16, 2020 Order of this Court remain in full force and effect.

The Court may issue further Orders regarding this matter as necessary to address the circumstances arising from

this pandemic and will post such Orders on the Court's website at [www.lasc.org](http://www.lasc.org), and in the news media.

Given under our hands and seal this 20th day of March A. D., 2020, New Orleans, Louisiana.

FOR THE COURT:

  
Chief Justice Bernette J. Johnson

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF RAPIDES

ALEXANDRIA CITY COURT

**AMENDED ORDER**

**RE: SUSPENSION OF COURT OPERATIONS PURSUANT TO  
LOUISIANA REVISED STATUTE 1:55 AND RELATED MATTERS  
DUE TO OUTBREAK OF COVID-19**

Acting under the authority of Article V, Section 1 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, the inherent power of this Court, and acting pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statute 1:55, and considering the amended Order of the Louisiana Supreme Court dated March 20, 2020, considering the Stay at Home Proclamation Number 33 JBE 2020 issued on March 22, 2020, by Governor John Bel Edwards, further considering the need to amend the Order of this court dated March 17, 2020,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. All trials, criminal, traffic and civil, along with any associated hearings scheduled to commence in Alexandria City Court on or before April 12, 2020, are continued to be reset by the court.
2. Alexandria City Court is closed to the general public and will not be open to the general public until April 13, 2020, or upon further Orders of this Court, whichever occurs first.
3. All other provisions set forth in the March 17, 2020, Order of this Court remain in full force and effect

The court may issue further Orders regarding this matter as necessary to address the circumstances arising from the outbreak of COVID-19. Notice of any subsequent Orders will be posted on the Court's website, [www.alexandriacitycourt.com](http://www.alexandriacitycourt.com), the Louisiana Supreme Court website, [www.lasc.org](http://www.lasc.org), and in the news media.

Order rendered and signed on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2020.

  
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JUDGE  
RICHARD E. STARLING JR.

## MEMORANDUM

TO: All Patrons and Court Personnel of Alexandria City Court

FROM: Judge Richard E. Starling Jr.

DATE: March 20, 2020

This memorandum is being circulated to as many of the referenced individuals as possible so that Alexandria City Court can comply with Section 5 C. of Proclamation Number JBE 2020-30 issued by Governor Edwards on March 16, 2020. This proclamation is attached. The court is also controlled by the mandates of the Louisiana Supreme Court Order issued on March 16, 2020 which is attached. I also issued an Order on March 17, 2020, which is attached. Anyone seeking updated information can find the most recent information regarding Louisiana courts at [www.lasc.org](http://www.lasc.org), which is the Louisiana Supreme Court website. We will also attempt to update as much information as possible at [www.alexandriacitycourt.com](http://www.alexandriacitycourt.com). All of these proclamations and Orders can be found at the Louisiana Supreme Court website.

As I am sure everyone is aware, the first confirmed case of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Rapides Parish was reported to the public on March 19, 2019. Information provided to the court has changed constantly. Accordingly, this memorandum is being circulated to the community in an effort to answer as many questions as possible as they pertain to scheduling of court hearings over the next thirty days. Hopefully, everyone understands this can change depending on the developing circumstances. The court is attempting to balance the need to maintain access to Alexandria City Court along with the mandates and public health recommendations of Federal, State and local authorities. More importantly, the court is concerned for the safety and welfare of the members of the public who may have matters pending in Alexandria City Court.

All legal delays are suspended until at least April 13, 2020. This means that any days between March 17, 2020, and April 13, 2020, are not counted in the delay period. Evictions filed or set for hearing between March 17, 2020, and April 13, 2020 will be reset on Friday, April 17, 2020, pursuant to the governor's proclamation, until we reach a limit of fifty. This is also consistent with President

Trumps' announcement that HUD is suspending all eviction and foreclosures until at least the latter part of April. The next fifty evictions will be set on Tuesday, April 21, 2020. The next eviction date is Thursday, April 23, 2020.

Any other hearings or trials set after March 27, 2020, will proceed as scheduled if the necessary legal delays have run. Summary Judgments filed before April 13, 2020, will be reset after May 13, 2020.

The court will be open for anyone who wants to file a pleading or other document. However, I would ask that filings be sent to the court by mail, if possible, to limit the number of people who frequent Alexandria City Court. I will be available to discuss any case by telephone as long as all parties or their attorneys are available to participate. I encourage any party that has an issue that can be resolved by telephone to contact me at (318) 449-5150.

We would ask that any attorney that receives this memorandum forward it to any out of town attorney they may know who may have cases pending in Alexandria City Court. I think most people who file in this court recognize the efforts of the staff to assure all disputes are resolved as quickly as possible. We will continue to attempt to resolve all legal disputes pending in Alexandria City Court as expeditiously as possible.



**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION NUMBER JBE 2020 – 30**

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***ADDITIONAL MEASURES FOR COVID-19  
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY***

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**WHEREAS,** pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, the Governor declared a Public Health emergency in Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020;

**WHEREAS,** on March 13, 2020, in emergency proclamation 27 JBE 2020, the Governor supplemented the measures taken in his declaration of a Public Health Emergency with additional restrictions and suspensions of deadlines and regulations in order to protect the health and safety of the public from the threat of COVID-19;

**WHEREAS,** the order was further supplemented on March 14, 2020 with additional measures necessary to ensure that goods and supplies can be delivered within the State of Louisiana; that health care providers can be available for treatment of those affected with COVID-19; that certain fees and fines for the Department of Health for those affected by the disaster are waived; that certain insurance regulations may be lifted by the Commissioner of Insurance; and that workers who lose employment because of this emergency are able to obtain unemployment benefits in a timely manner;

**WHEREAS,** in the days since the declaration of public health emergency, the COVID-19 outbreak in Louisiana has expanded significantly;

**WHEREAS,** additional measures are necessary to protect the health and safety of the public;

**WHEREAS,** these measures are in line with the best guidance and direction from the White House, the Centers for Disease Control, and state health officials;

**WHEREAS,** these measures relating to gaming establishments, restaurants, bars, cafes, and coffee shops are necessary because of the ability of the COVID-19 virus to spread via personal interactions and because of physical contamination of property due to its propensity to attach to surfaces for prolonged periods of time; and

**WHEREAS,** all of these additional restrictions and suspensions will run concurrent with the term of the initial emergency declaration; however, such term shall be extended or shortened as circumstances dictate.

**NOW THEREFORE, I, JOHN BEL EDWARDS,** Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

**SECTION 1:** In an effort to reduce and limit the spread of COVID-19 in Louisiana, and to preserve the health and safety of all members of the public, all gatherings of 50 people or more between 12:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 17, 2020 and Monday, April 13, 2020 shall be postponed or cancelled. This applies only to gatherings in a single space at the same time where individuals will be in close proximity to one another. It does not apply to normal operations at locations like airports, medical facilities, shopping centers or malls, office buildings, factories or manufacturing facilities, or grocery or department stores. This order does not limit the ability of a local jurisdiction or political subdivision from enacting more restrictive limitations.

**SECTION 2:** Pursuant to La. R.S. 29:766 et seq. the Governor has determined that some business establishments are unable to continue current operations without unacceptable risks to the health and safety of the public. Therefore, at 12:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, all casinos, video poker establishments, movie theaters, bars, bowling alleys, and fitness centers and gyms, statewide, shall cease operations completely. Any truck stop may remain in operation but shall cease all gaming operations. Race tracks may remain open but no members of the public may be allowed therein and no gaming operations shall be allowed. These restrictions shall remain in place until 11:59 p.m. on April 12, 2020, unless terminated earlier.

**SECTION 3:** Pursuant to La. R.S. 29:766 et seq. the Governor has determined that some business establishments are unable to continue current operations without unacceptable risks to the health and safety of the public. Therefore, at 12:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, all restaurants, cafes, and coffee shops, statewide, shall cease allowing for any on premises consumption of food or beverages. Any establishment affected by this order may continue take out, drive-thru, and delivery services, however, in no circumstance shall the food or beverages purchased be consumed on premises. Hotel restaurants may continue operations, but only for the service of registered hotel guests via room service. These restrictions shall remain in place until 11:59 p.m. on April 12, 2020, unless terminated earlier.

**SECTION 4:** All state agencies, boards and commissions, and local political subdivisions of the state shall provide for attendance at essential governmental meetings via teleconference or video conference and such attendance shall be allowed during the pendency of this emergency. All efforts shall be made to provide for observation and input by members of the public. Before any meeting conducted pursuant to this section, the state agency, boards and commission, or local political subdivision of the state shall first provide a written certification that it will otherwise be unable to operate due to quorum requirements. Such certification shall be posted at the same time and in the same manner as the agenda for the meeting. Nothing in this order shall be interpreted to waive any notice requirements.

**SECTION 5: A.** Legal deadlines, including liberative prescription and peremptive periods applicable to legal proceedings in all courts, administrative agencies, and boards, are hereby suspended until at least Monday, April 13, 2020, including, but not limited to, any such deadlines set forth by law within the following:

1. Louisiana Civil Code;
2. Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure;
3. Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure;
4. Louisiana Children's Code;
5. Title 9 of Louisiana Revised Statutes, Civil Code Ancillaries;
6. Title 13 of Louisiana Revised Statutes, Courts and Judicial Procedure;
7. Title 14 of Louisiana Revised Statutes, Criminal Law;
8. Title 15 of Louisiana Revised Statutes, Criminal Procedure;
9. Title 18 of Louisiana Revised Statutes, Louisiana Election Code;
10. Title 23 of Louisiana Revised Statutes, Labor and Worker's Compensation;
11. Title 32 of Louisiana Revised Statutes, Motor Vehicles and Traffic Regulations;
12. Title 40 of Louisiana Revised Statutes, Public Health and Safety;
13. Title 47 of Louisiana Revised Statutes, Revenue and Taxation;

14. Title 49 of Louisiana Revised Statutes, State Administration; and

15. Title 56 of Louisiana Revised Statutes, Wildlife and Fisheries.

B. In addition, all other deadlines in legal proceedings in all courts, administrative agencies, and boards shall be suspended until Monday, April 13, 2020.

C. Courts, administrative agencies and boards statewide shall use due diligence in communicating with attorneys, parties to proceedings with pending deadlines, and the public how the court, agency or board will implement and interpret the provisions of this Order.

D. Paragraph B of this Section shall not be interpreted so as to prohibit an owner of immovable property from reclaiming leased property if abandoned as provided by law, or entering leased property to make necessary repairs as provided by law.

**SECTION 6:** Pursuant to La. R.S. 14:329.6, a state of emergency is declared to exist statewide for the purposes of allowing the chief law enforcement officer of any political subdivision to, in order to protect life and property and to bring the emergency situation under control, promulgate orders for any provision therein, including a local curfew from 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.

**SECTION 7:** The following additional provisions relating to the Office of Motor Vehicles are hereby suspended:

A. The expiration date of driver's licenses which expire on or after March 9, 2020, but on or before May 10, 2020, is suspended and the expiration date is extended to May 20, 2020.

B. The expiration of a temporary driver's license issued pursuant La R.S. 32:667(A) which were issued on or after March 9, 2020 through May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 is suspended until June 9, 2020.

C. All students who enroll in a driver's education course after March 9, 2020 shall be allowed to begin the driver's education course without the issuance of the temporary instructional permit until May 10, 2020.

D. Any suspension for which the official notice of withdrawal was issued on or after Feb 17,2020, but before May 10, 2020, shall remain pending until June 9,2020.

**SECTION 8:** For procurement and contracting, strict compliance with the Louisiana Procurement Code (La. R.S. 39:1551, *et seq.*), Telecommunications Procurement (La. R.S. 39:1751-1755), and Information Technology Procurement (La. R.S. 39:196-200), shall not be required. However, all state agencies should comply with the following conditions:

A. An appointed official within the agency, or the equivalent for officials in higher education, must determine that the failure to strictly comply with the statutory restriction is necessary due to the emergency.

B. A centralized point of contact for each agency must monitor all transactions conducted without strict statutory compliance, maintaining copies of all documentation. Documentation should specify whether the purchase falls into the "emergency" or "permanent" category and whether the purchase relates to the COVID-19 event referenced in Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020 and all documentation must be maintained and available for audit and FEMA reimbursement purposes.

C. Written competitive quotes and/or offers must be obtained whenever possible and agencies must take the necessary steps to assess that fair and equitable pricing is being offered.




- D. Performance-based contracting should be used where practical.
- E. Statewide contracts should be used where practical.
- F. To the maximum extent possible, such emergency contracts should be only for the duration of the emergency or to allow the agency time to comply with normal competitive bidding requirements if the goods or services will be required for an extended period of time.
- G. Copies of contracts which would otherwise require approval by the Office of State Procurement and the supporting documentation discussed above must be provided to the Office of State Procurement within thirty (30) days or sooner, if practical. Additionally, LaGov agencies should enter small purchases into the LaGov system as soon as practical. The Office of State Procurement shall review the contracts and documentation to determine compliance with this Executive Order
- H. Payments to contractors should be made only after verification that all goods and services meet contract requirements.
- I. All Public Bid Openings shall be suspended. Bid openings will continue, however public openings will not occur in order to limit the potential for exposure. Bid openings will be made available via phone conference or web conference.
- J. All required Procurement Support Team meetings will be held via phone conference or web conference.

**SECTION 9:** All departments, commissions, boards, agencies and officers of the State, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions the State may take in response to the effects of this event.

**SECTION 10:** These provisions extend from 12:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 to Monday, April 13, 2020, unless terminated sooner.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

  
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GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

**ATTEST BY THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE**

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**SECRETARY OF STATE**

**SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA**

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**O R D E R**

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Acting under the authority of Article V, Section 1 of Constitution of 1974, and the inherent power of this Court, and 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, and President Donald Trump's declaration of a national emergency on March 13, 2020, and 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,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. All jury trials, both civil and criminal, scheduled to commence in any Louisiana state court between the date of this Order and March 27, 2020, are hereby continued to a date to be reset by local order no earlier than March 30, 2020. Civil and criminal jury trials that are in progress as of March 13, 2020 may continue to conclusion, in the discretion of the local court.
2. Except as otherwise provided herein, all civil trials, hearings and court appearances set for any date between the date of this Order and March 27, 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.

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. All judges and court clerks are urged to limit in-person courtroom contact as much as possible by utilizing available technologies, including alternative means of filing, teleconferencing, email and videoconferencing.


5. This Order expressly does not prohibit any court proceedings by telephone, video, teleconferencing, or any other means that do not involve in-person contact. This Order does not affect courts' consideration of matters that can be resolved without in-person proceedings.

6. 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 Court may issue further Orders regarding this matter as necessary to address the circumstances arising from this pandemic and will post such Orders on the Court's website at [www.lasc.org](http://www.lasc.org), and in the news media.

Given under our hands and seal this 16th day of March  
A. D., 2020, New Orleans, Louisiana.

FOR THE COURT:

  
Chief Justice Bernette J. Johnson

State of Louisiana  
Parish of Rapides  
Alexandria City Court

ORDER

Acting under the authority of Article V, Section 1 of Constitution of 1974, and the inherent power of this Court, and 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, and President Donald Trump's declaration of a national emergency on March 13, 2020, the Order of the Louisiana Supreme Court issued March 16, 2020, and 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 Alexandria City Court,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:


1. All trials, both civil and criminal, scheduled to commence in Alexandria City Court between the date of this Order and March 27, 2020, are hereby continued to a date to be reset by the court no earlier than March 30, 2020.
2. Except as otherwise provided herein, all civil trials, hearings and court appearances set for any date between the date of this Order and March 27, 2020 are hereby continued to a date to be reset by the Court.
3. Criminal initial appearances for arraignments for incarcerated individuals and bond hearings shall continue as scheduled.
4. The necessity of fulfilling the requirements of probation for probationers shall be suspended until April 13, 2020. The suspended requirements include but are not limited to community service, behavior modification classes, payment of fees and reporting requirements.
5. This Order expressly does not prohibit any court proceedings by telephone, video, teleconferencing, or any other means that do not involve in-person contact.

The Court may issue further Orders regarding this matter as necessary to address the circumstances arising from this pandemic. If the conditions indicate that the Court needs to adjust the above policy, notice will be posted on the Court's website, [www.alexandriacitycourt.com](http://www.alexandriacitycourt.com), the Louisiana Supreme Court website, [www.lasc.org](http://www.lasc.org), and in the news media.

Given under my hand and seal this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020, in Alexandria, Louisiana.



Judge, Richard E. Starling, Jr.  
Alexandria City Court

FILED  
Alexandria City Court  
March 17, 2020  
  
Deputy Clerk