

**CITY COURT
SHREVEPORT, LA**

**Terrell J. Myles, JD
Judicial Administrator
318 673-5806
318 673-5861 (FAX)**



**1244 Texas Avenue
Shreveport, LA 71101
terrell.myles@shreveportla.gov**

March 26, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

svujnovich@lasc.org

Ms. Sandra A. Vujnovich, Esq.
Judicial Administrator/CEO,
Judiciary Commission of Louisiana
Louisiana Supreme Court
400 Royal Street, Suite 1190
New Orleans, LA 70130

RE: Shreveport City Court

Dear Ms. Vujnovich:

On March 23, 2020 I sent to you three documents to be placed on the Court's Website. Thank you so much for your assistance on having them placed on the website. On the third document, which was the Order by Shreveport City Court issued on March 23, it did not have the Chief Judges Signature. I have attached that Order with the Judge's signature and ask if you could please post the Order with the Judge's signature on the Court's website. I apologize for any inconveniences. I will forward a copy of the original letter dated March 23, 2020 requesting the documents be placed on the website and copies of the documents along with the Order with the Judge's signature.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Terrell J. Myles", is written over a circular stamp that matches the City Court of Shreveport seal. The signature is fluid and stylized.

Terrell J. Myles

CITY COURT OF SHREVEPORT/ WARD 4

PARISH OF CADDO

STATE OF LOUISIANA

ORDER

Acting in accordance with La. Const. Art. V, Sec. 1 and the inherent power of this Court and considering the Public Health Emergency declared by Governor John Bel Edwards on March 11, 2020 (25 JBE 2020), supplemented on March 13, 2020 (27 JBE 2020), and further supplemented March 16, 2020 (30 JBE 2020) in response to the multiple confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the State of Louisiana; and further, in consideration of the hazardous and unsafe condition caused therefrom;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the following restrictions will be temporarily enforced until it is determined to be safe to remove them:

The Court will be closed to the public from March 17, 2020 through April 13, 2020. Court appearances scheduled to commence in this court between the date of this Order and April 13, 2020, are hereby continued to a date to be reset by this court no earlier than April 14, 2020. Accordingly, all civil and criminal settings are suspended until the date of April 14, 2020. Civil matters include, but are not limited to, evictions, judgment debtor rules, trials and motion hearings. Criminal matters include all arraignments, discovery rules, trials and review hearings. All 72-hour hearings required under Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure Article 230.1, will proceed and be conducted via telephone or audio-video electronic equipment.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND RECOGNIZED that all civil time delays and calculations are dictated by Proclamation(s) of the Governor and Legislation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the delays in all Criminal and Traffic cases created by this Order shall constitute "just cause", pursuant to Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure Article 701.

All other provisions set forth in earlier decrees or updates of this Court, not inconsistent with this ORDER 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.shreveportcitycourt.org and in the news media.

Signed this 23rd day of March A. D., 2020, Shreveport, Louisiana.

FOR THE COURT:



CHIEF JUDGE, PAMMELA S. LATTIER

**CITY COURT
SHREVEPORT, LA**

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Judicial Administrator/CEO,
Judiciary Commission of Louisiana
Louisiana Supreme Court
400 Royal Street, Suite 1190
New Orleans, LA 70130

RE: Shreveport City Court

Dear Ms. Vujnovich:

Considering the recent outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Louisiana, please find attached three documents from Shreveport City Court to be placed on the Court's website. These documents include (1) a Decree from Shreveport City Court dated March 16, 2020; (2) an updated Emergency Order issued by Shreveport City Court on March 18, 2020; and (3) an Order by Shreveport City Court issued on March 23, 2020.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Terrell J. Myles

Decrees of the Shreveport City Court
Pursuant to *En Banc* Emergency Meeting of the Shreveport City Court
March 16, 2020

The Shreveport City Court ("Court") met *En Banc* on March 16, 2020.

The Court is operating with full knowledge of that contained in "Proclamation Number JBE 2020-27; Additional Measures for COVID-19, Public Health Emergency," which was signed and issued by Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards, which proclamation is incorporated herein by reference (hereinafter "Governor's Proclamation"). A state of emergency has been declared from Friday, March 13, 2020 to Thursday, April 9, 2020, unless terminated sooner.

This Court is independently fully cognizant of health issues presented, which issues must be immediately addressed. The Court has considered the most prudent course of action, first for the citizens of Shreveport, Louisiana, as well as others who avail themselves of the services of the Court. Secondly, the health and safety of all those who are regular employees and occupants within the confines of the Shreveport City Court Campus is of importance. Considering all of the above, the court has taken and now declares the following decrees:

1. Routine and normal court operations of and at the Shreveport City Court are hereby **suspended, instant, until and including** April 10, 2020 (hereinafter referred to as the "Period of Suspension"). Pending further order of the Court, all operations shall commence in full on April 13, 2020.

Exception: all **time-sensitive criminal matters**, including but not limited to jail clearance, appointment of counsel, fixing bail, determinations of probable cause for arrest, arrest/search warrants, and any other time-sensitive consideration shall be conducted under/in the **current format and schedule**.

Further provided: this order shall not affect the court's or a respective judge's authority to address any civil or criminal matter that may be resolved without hearing, nor shall this order affect the authority to conduct other administrative issues.

2. Those with business before the Court, including having to pay fines, fees and costs of court, are encouraged to pay such items as expeditiously as possible. Those payments may be made by telephone or online. Those methods may be utilized with contact to: the online payment website (<https://www.shreveportla.gov/233/Pay-Ticket-Online>), or by phone at 866-993-6019.

3. All pending cases during the Period of Suspension, whether criminal, traffic, or civil, specially set for hearing/trial or part of a regularly scheduled court appearance, will be reassigned. The Court will send notice to the last address that was provided which is on file. It is the responsibility of any person who has any business before the Court to insure that the Court has a current, accurate address.

For questions concerning **criminal** matters, please call: (318) 673-5830.

For questions concerning **payment** matters, please call: (318) 673-5830.

For questions concerning **civil** matters, please call: (318) 673-5800.

4. For the public's safety, and the departments operating within the confines of the Shreveport City Court Campus, each respective supervisor is hereby granted the authority to define and regulate the number of employees required to be present to perform minimal necessary work, under such terms as deemed appropriate.

This Court does not express any opinion as to issues concerning prescription (statute of limitations), in either civil or criminal cases, as those matters were not addressed in the Governor's Proclamation. In the event that the Office of the Governor issues an additional decree concerning the suspension of, or other effect upon prescription, such will be duly promulgated to the public and made a part of the minutes of the Shreveport City Court.

5. The Clerk of Court, Judicial Administrator, the City Marshal and Probation Department are instructed to immediately promulgate these decrees to the public in all appropriate methods.

6. During the Period of Suspension, the City Marshal and Probation Department are requested to have stationed a minimal number of employees, in their discretion, at the points of entry to the Shreveport City Court Campus, but especially on dates for which court had previously been scheduled. These officers may notify those coming to court about the provisions of this decree, and provide appropriate notices for future court dates.

7. Pursuant to request of law enforcement, and in accordance with *La. C.Cr. Pr. Arts.* 209, 211, the following extraordinary measures are implemented.

In certain cases, during the Period of Suspension (until Apr. 10, 2020), persons for whom Bench Warrants have been issued by the Court (hereinafter "defendant"), will not be subject to arrest pursuant to the pertinent Bench Warrant. In lieu of arrest, a summons may be issued by law enforcement instead of arrest/booking, requiring the defendant to appear in court at a later date.

The **conditions** for issuing summonses shall be:


- a. The officer, after exercising sound discretion, has good reason to believe that the defendant will appear as instructed by the officer;
- b. The **underlying charge** for which the defendant had been required to appear **may not be**: a "crime of violence" (*La. R.S.* 14:2. B.); Domestic Violence (*La. R.S.* 14:35.3; 14:37.7.); violation of a Domestic Abuse Prevention Order (*La. R.S.* 47:2131, *et seq.*).

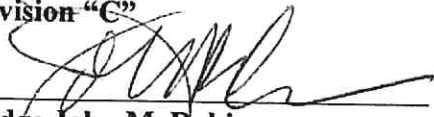
8. These decrees shall be made a part of the minutes of the Shreveport City Court.


**THIS CONCLUDES THE DECRETAL LANGUAGE OF THE COURT.
THE SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS.**


THESE DECREES ARE ADOPTED BY THE COURT, *EN BANC*, on March 16,
2020, at 9:57 a.m.

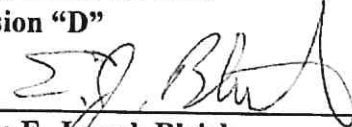
ATTEST:

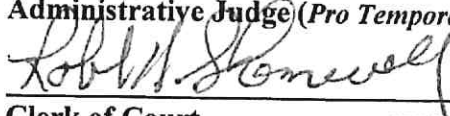

Chief Judge Pamela Lattier
Division "C"


Judge John M. Robinson
Div. "A" (*Pro Tempore*)


Judge Brian H. Barber, Sr.
Division "B"


Judge Sheva M. Sims
Division "D"


Judge E. Joseph Bleich
Administrative Judge (*Pro Tempore*)


Clerk of Court
Robert Shemwell

PRESS RELEASE

SHREVEPORT CITY COURT UPDATE
EMERGENCY ORDER

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Coronavirus Health Emergency and Proclamation Number JBE 2020-30 signed on March 16th 2020, Shreveport City Court is hereby CLOSED and is currently not scheduled to reopen until Tuesday, April 14, 2020. All court appearances scheduled on April 14, 2020 will go forward unless this EMERGENCY ORDER issued on March 18, 2020 is extended.

Issued this 18th day of March, 2020.

Pammela S. Lattier
Judge, Shreveport City Court