

Lake Charles City Court  
Ward III, Calcasieu Parish  
State of Louisiana

**MOTION AND ORDER SUSPENDING COURT OPERATIONS**  
**UNDER THE EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY**  
**COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) AND RELATED MATTERS**


ON MOTION OF Judge John S. Hood and Judge Jamie B. Bice, Judges of the City Court of Lake Charles, Ward III, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, and acting in accordance with the Constitution of Louisiana, Article V, Section 1 and the inherent power of this Court, and considering the Declaration of the State of Emergency by the Governor of Louisiana, and specifically the ORDER OF THE LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT made a part hereof:

IT IS ORDERED AND DECREED that normal court appearances at the Lake Charles City Court will be suspended and continued until Monday, March 30, 2020. Accordingly, all civil, criminal, traffic and juvenile settings scheduled from the date of this Order through Friday, March 27, 2020 are suspended effective immediately. All matters will be reset by the Court at the last known address of the parties to the proceedings. All Court proceedings will re-open to the public on March 30, 2020 unless that date is extended by further Order of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

IT IS ORDERED that all offices will remain open for normal service to the public during normal business hours. For your convenience and to avoid appearance in public, most traffic tickets can be paid over the phone by calling (337) 491-1565, or online at [www.lccitycourt.org](http://www.lccitycourt.org). Traffic and criminal fines may also be paid by mail by cashier's check or money order (do not send cash) payable to Lake Charles City Court, P.O. Box 1664, Lake Charles, LA 70602.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until March 27, 2020, unless modified by Order of this Court or the Supreme Court of Louisiana.

Lake Charles, Louisiana this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020.

  
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JUDGE JOHN S. HOOD  
Chief Judge

**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.

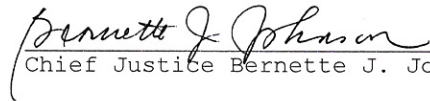
5. This Order expressly does not prohibit any court proceedings by telephone, video, teleconferencing, or any other means that do not involve in-person contact. This Order does not affect courts' consideration of matters that can be resolved without in-person proceedings.

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