

STATE OF LOUISIANA  
PARISHES OF CLAIBORNE, JACKSON AND BIENVILLE  
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

IN RE: COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE  
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED  
BY COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)

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 February of this year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") issued "Interim Guidance" recommending that all entities consider how best to decrease the spread of COVID-19, including the review of guidance from state and local health officials. In light of Governor Edwards' declaration of a public health emergency and his executive order concerning public gatherings, Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020, as amended on March 13, 2020, and March 16, 2020, as well as the March 1, 2020 order from the Louisiana Supreme Court, the Second Judicial District Court, in and for the Parishes of Claiborne, Jackson and Bienville, issues this Order to address this public health crisis in a way that protects the health and safety of the public and of everyone at our Court facilities, while at the same time, to the extent possible, maintains access to the Court.

Considering the risk posed to the public, and in consideration of the public health recommendations,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT, beginning Tuesday, March 17, 2020, at 8:30 a.m., until Monday, April 13, 2020, at 8:30 a.m.:

- 1) all jury trials, both civil and criminal, are hereby continued, to be re-set by Order;
- 2) criminal initial appearances for adults and juveniles, arraignments for incarcerated

individuals and bond hearings shall continue to be held as scheduled and shall be conducted with the use of telephone and video conferencing whenever possible;


- 3) the delays in all criminal cases created by this Order shall constitute "just cause", pursuant to La. Code of Criminal Procedure art. 701, with legal deadlines including liberative, prescription and preemptive periods suspended until at least April 13, 2020, pursuant to Section 5 of Proclamation Number JBE 2020-30;
- 4) all civil trials, hearings, and court appearances are hereby continued, to be reset by order, except for hearings related to the following: civil protective orders, child in need of care proceedings, emergency child custody matters pursuant to La. Code of Civil Procedure art. 3945, proceedings for children removed from their home by emergency court orders, emergency interdictions, and matters of public health related to this crisis;
- 5) all Non-support matters are hereby continued, to be reset by order;
- 6) all Juvenile Court matters other than seventy-two hour continued custody hearings are to be continued to May 12, 2020;
- 7) this Order does not affect the Court's ability to consider civil or criminal matters that can be resolved without hearing or matters that are normally signed in Chambers.

8) the Claiborne, Jackson and Bienville Parish Courthouses will be open to the public according to the direction of each parish's Police Jury. The public may continue to utilize Court services in accordance with this Order and while following all applicable public health guidelines. The public is encouraged to check with the respective Judges' Offices in the Second Judicial District Court for additional information by calling:

- a) Claiborne 318-927-3550
- b) Jackson 318-259-3442
- c) Bienville 318-263-7412

This Order remains in effect until 8:30 a.m. on April 13, 2020, or until further orders of this Court.

THUS DATED AND SIGNED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

  
JENIFER WARD CLASON  
CHIEF JUDGE  
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT