

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF FRANKLIN
WINNSBORO/WARD 7 CITY COURT

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

ON EX PARTE MOTION of John Scott Sartin, Winnsboro/Ward 7 City Court Judge, acting in accordance with Louisiana Constitution Article V, Section 1 and the inherent power of this Court, and considering the Declaration of State of Emergency of Governor Edwards, encouragement of the Louisiana Supreme Court to implement social distancing strategies and the Court's concern for the safety and health of the community:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that certain court operations at Winnsboro City Court will be suspended until April 20, 2020, at which time the Court will reevaluate circumstances and move forward at that time. Accordingly, all civil settings are suspended until the date of April 20, 2020. Civil matters include, but are not limited to, evictions, judgment debtor rules, trials and motion hearings. All criminal settings are suspended until the date of April 20, 2020, with the exception of 72-hour hearings. Criminal matters include all arraignments, discovery rules, trials and review hearings. All hearings required under Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure Article 230.1 will be conducted via telephone directly between the Court and Franklin Parish Detention Center. All juvenile matters are hereby upset and continued to May 21, 2020, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. All other matters will be reset by the Court. At this time, Winnsboro City Court will reopen for Court matters on Monday, April 20, 2020.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Winnsboro City Court building will be open to anyone desiring to file a pleading or make a payment on their fine or costs. In the alternative, all civil pleadings, new petitions including new eviction proceedings, answers or other pleadings can be faxed to the Court at (318) 435-7102 in accordance with Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure Article 850.

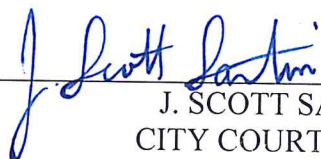
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the delays in all criminal cases created by this Order shall constitute "just cause" pursuant to Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure Article 701.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this order does not affect the Court's consideration of matters that can be resolved without in-person proceedings or by telephone.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all inquiries and questions be directed to the Clerk of Court, Brooke Slaughter, at (318) 435-4508, who will direct the calls to the proper person or handle the matter at hand immediately.

IT IS FURTHER RECOGNIZED that this Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until the open of business on April 20, 2020, unless modified by further Order of the Court.

Signed at Winnsboro, Louisiana on this 18th day of March, 2020.



J. SCOTT SARTIN
CITY COURT JUDGE