

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF SHELBY COUNTY, ALABAMA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER – SHELBY COUNTY COURTHOUSE (18<sup>th</sup>  
Judicial Circuit) – Updated Rules for Judicial Proceedings

WHEREAS, Governor Kay Ivey issued a Proclamation terminating the State of Emergency related to COVID-19 in the State of Alabama, effective as of 11:59 p.m. on July 6, 2021, and

WHEREAS, on July 7, 2021, the Supreme Court of Alabama rescinded the State of Emergency declared by the Court for the Judicial Branch of the State of Alabama in the Administrative Order dated March 13, 2020, and revoked all other COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency Response orders issued by the Court except for Administrative Order No. 10 related to workers' compensation cases, which remains in effect until July 29, 2021;

WHEREAS, this court deems it necessary for the efficient administration of justice in the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit (Shelby County) that the following provisions be enacted,

It is therefore ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED as follows:

- 1) Pursuant to Ala. Code Section 12-1-24, the court hereby authorizes pretrial motion hearings in civil and criminal matters in the circuit courts, district courts, and probate courts of the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit to be conducted by telephone conferencing or other audio-video telecommunications means. The telephone or audio-video telecommunications devices used in such hearings shall enable the judge and all parties to converse simultaneously with each other. The court has previously developed and published procedures for the conduct of such hearings in its order dated April 6, 2020, styled ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER – COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN FOR THE 18<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT- VIRTUAL COURT HEARINGS.
- 2) Transport of inmates from the Shelby County Jail to the Shelby County Courthouse is hereby SUSPENDED. This circuit has established virtual courtrooms through the use of video conferencing technology to facilitate all hearings required by the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Alabama, and any statute or rule. Any departure from this suspension must be approved in writing by the undersigned.
- 3) The Shelby County Courthouse (with the exception of Juvenile Court and Juvenile Court Services) will have no COVID-19-related occupancy restrictions and the wearing of masks is encouraged, but not mandatory. Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Jim Kramer has entered an Order concerning all parties and visitors to Juvenile Court and Juvenile Court Services. Individuals with COVID-19 related health concerns may follow the directions set out on signage posted at the front and rear entrances to the courthouse.
- 4) The Circuit and District Judges shall continue to maintain complete discretion over the management of cases assigned to them, including the authority to conduct in-person or

virtual hearings. Each judge maintains the authority to require mask usage or distancing in his or her courtroom or chambers.

- 5) When a judge conducts an in-person hearing, the only persons permitted in the courtroom are the judge, the parties, the attorneys, court personnel, and persons whose presence is deemed necessary by the judge.
- 6) All provisions of, and procedures established by, the following orders remain in full force and effect:
  - a. ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER – VIRTUAL COURT HEARINGS, entered April 6, 2020,
  - b. ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER – Jury Selection During Phase Three Resumption of Jury Trials, entered September 10, 2020, and
  - c. ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER – Resumption of Jury Trials During Phase Three, entered September 1, 2020.
- 7) Jury trials for the week of August 16, 2021, will proceed as previously scheduled.

The Clerk of Court shall spread a copy of this order among the minutes of the court, post a copy of this order on her official website, <https://18jc.alacourt.gov/index.aspx>, and provide a copy of this order to the Alabama Administrative Office of Courts.

DONE and ORDERED this the 11th day of August, 2021.

/s/ WILLIAM H. BOSTICK, III  
Presiding Circuit Judge  
18<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit