

Important Information about the Courts during this time.

### **Supreme Court of Alabama**

- All in-person proceedings in all state and local courts in Alabama, including, but not limited to, proceedings in the circuit court, district court (including cases on the small claims docket), juvenile court, municipal court, probate court, and appellate courts, are suspended through April 16, 2020.
- The court order has no effect on out-of-court activities in civil cases, including, but not limited to, depositions and mediations.
- Any dispute about an out-of-court activity related to a pending case should be directed to the court that is adjudicating the case.

### **Northern District of Alabama**

- All civil and criminal jury trials, and any other proceeding that requires jurors (grand or petit), are hereby continued pending further court order.
- All non-jury trials scheduled to commence before any district or magistrate judge are hereby continued pending further Court order.
- The individual judges assigned to a criminal case retain the ability to conduct all other criminal proceedings, including but not limited to, initial appearance, preliminary hearings, detention hearings, the acceptance of guilty pleas, and sentencing.
- All other civil proceedings scheduled to be conducted in court shall be conducted as scheduled by phone, video conferencing, or other electronic means.
- All currently unexpired deadlines and briefing schedules are hereby stayed for 14 days. Unless modified by the Court, these deadlines shall be automatically stayed for an additional 14 days.
- The Birmingham, Tuscaloosa, Anniston, and Huntsville Courthouses will remain open.

### **Middle District of Alabama**

- No jurors will be summoned for civil or criminal jury trials in any division of the Middle District of Alabama for 30 days from March 17, 2020. All jury trials currently scheduled during that 30-day period are continued for 30 days pending further information from the Court.
- Initial appearances, arraignments, and detention hearings before the Magistrate Judges **will continue, but will be conducted by telephone or by video-conference**. Any proceedings which cannot be conducted telephonically or via video-conference will be coordinated with the duty magistrate judge. Presentence investigations may begin upon the filing of a notice of intent to change plea.
- All grand jury proceedings in this District are continued for 30 days pending further Order of the Court.
- Case-by-case exceptions to any of these procedures may be ordered for non-jury matters at the discretion of the Court after consultation with counsel.
- The Montgomery, Dothan, and Opelika Courthouses will remain open.

### **Southern District of Alabama**

- The United States District Court continues to monitor the most current statements from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as all communications disseminated by

the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AO), regarding the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The United States District Court is following recommended guidelines from public health officials and preparedness guidance from the AO. Currently, there has been no adjustment in court operations