

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

Office of the Honorable Andrea LeCroy
Probate Judge – Marshall County, Alabama
Media Contact: 256-571-7764 / alecroy@marshallco.org

Alabama Supreme Court Suspends Non-Emergency Probate Court Proceedings and Public Operation

Effective March 17, 2020 - Marshall County, Alabama – To protect the citizens of Marshall County and Court Staff and to comply with the order issued by the Alabama Supreme Court, Judge Andrea LeCroy will suspend all non-emergency hearings and proceedings before the Probate Court of Marshall County and close all Court operations to the public effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020. The Marshall County Courthouse has been closed to the general public by the Marshall County Commission effective this date. The court will operate as outlined below until further notice.

Offices Closed/Services Suspended Until Further Notice:

- The Probate Office along with the satellite offices in Albertville and Arab will be closed to the general public effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020 at 8:00 a.m..

Access to records:

- Available records may be accessed using our online portal at: www.deedlookup.org
- Requests for Probate records (which are not available online) should be emailed to Vicki Lowery at vlowery@marshallco.org or Dawn Compton at dcompton@marshallco.org or by telephone at 256-571-7764, option 4. Requested records will be supplied as soon as possible via email or placed in U.S. Mail.

To record documents:

- Documents for recording will only be accepted via U.S. Mail or electronically via one of our approved vendors.
Approved vendors for electronic filing:
 - Simplifile 800-460-5657 www.simplifile.com
 - EPN / eRecording Partners 888-325-3365 www.GOePN.com
- Questions related to recording documents should be emailed to either Vicki Lowery or Dawn Compton (email addresses above) or by calling 256-571-7764, option 4.

Court Proceedings:

- All scheduled non-emergency hearings and proceedings are suspended until further notice – these hearings and proceedings will be rescheduled.
- The Probate Court will only hear cases related to involuntary commitments and emergency guardianships.

- Petitions for involuntary commitment and emergency guardianship will be accepted via email to alecroy@marshallco.org or lgraves@marshallco.org – the original documents should be presented to the court at the scheduled hearing. A member of our staff will be available during business hours to coordinate hearings for involuntary commitment and emergency guardianship.
- For questions regarding involuntary commitment and emergency guardianship please call 256-571-7764, option 3.

Tags/Business/Hunting/Fishing License/Driver License:

- Taxpayers will be able to renew their automobile tags, boat stickers, and business license online at www.renewyourtag.com or by calling 256-275-4042. During this time of closure, the county commission has waived the \$2.00 mail-in fee for any renewals postmarked March 17, 2020 through April 5, 2020.
- Driver's License can be renewed online at www.alea.gov
- Hunting and/or fishing license can be purchased online at www.outdooralabama.com
- Newly acquired vehicles will not be registered at this time. Please see the Order of the Commissioner of Revenue dated March 16, 2020 for information on extensions of time and waiving of penalties. (www.revenue.alabama.gov)
- Satellite offices located in Albertville at Crossroads Mall and Arab at the Recreation Center are also closed at this time.

Elections:

The Secretary of State has requested an Emergency Opinion from the Attorney General's Office as to the postponement of the Presidential Primary Run-Off Election. We are awaiting that Opinion and will notify the general public as soon as we have a determination.

Probate Staff:

Our office will remain fully staffed.

Other Information:

Please call our general number, 256-571-7764, option3, for all matters or inquiries. We will do our best to provide services for any matter that falls within the above parameters. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we may be of assistance to you. It is our great honor and pleasure to serve the people of Marshall County.

ADDITIONAL CONTACT NUMBERS:

Judge Andrea LeCroy – 256-572-0442

Chief Clerk – Lea Ann Graves 256-302-2412

FILED

MAR 13

CLERK

SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA
RE: COVID-19 PANDEMIC EMERGENCY RESPONSE

March 13, 2020

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER SUSPENDING ALL IN-PERSON COURT
PROCEEDINGS FOR THE NEXT THIRTY DAYS**

The President of the United States having declared a national emergency and the Governor of Alabama having declared a state of emergency for the State of Alabama amid the Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") pandemic, the Supreme Court of Alabama, pursuant to the authority vested in it under Article VI, §§ 139, 140, and 150, Ala. Const. 1901, hereby declares a state of emergency for the entire Judicial Branch of the State of Alabama.

The local and state courts of the State of Alabama are open and will remain open under all circumstances, subject to the provisions of this order.

Under the constitutional, statutory, and inherent authority of the Supreme Court, we adopt the following provisions. 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 beginning Monday, March 16, 2020 through Thursday, April 16, 2020, subject to the exceptions below.

Exceptions to this suspension of in-person court proceedings include, but are not limited to:

- Proceedings necessary to protect constitutional rights of criminal defendants, including bond-related matters and plea agreements for incarcerated individuals.
- Civil and criminal jury trials that are in progress as of March 13, 2020.
- Proceedings related to protection from abuse.
- Proceedings related to emergency child custody and protection orders.
- Department of Human Resources emergency matters related to child protection.

- Proceedings related to petitions for temporary injunctive relief.
- Proceedings related to emergency mental health orders.
- Proceedings related to emergency protection of elderly or vulnerable persons.
- Proceedings directly related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Any emergent proceeding as needed by law enforcement.
- Other exceptions as approved by the Chief Justice.

The presiding judge or the designee of the presiding judge of each judicial circuit is authorized to determine the manner in which in-person court proceedings for the exceptions listed above are to be conducted. Other exceptions to the suspension of in-person court proceedings must be approved by the Chief Justice. Any permitted in-court proceedings shall be limited to attorneys, parties, witnesses, security officers, and other necessary persons, as determined by the trial judge.

Judges are charged with the responsibility of ensuring that core constitutional functions and rights are protected. Additionally, court clerks are charged with ensuring that court functions continue. Nevertheless, all judges and court clerks are urged to limit in-person courtroom contact as much as possible by utilizing available technologies, including electronic filing, teleconferencing, and videoconferencing. Any Alabama state or local rule, criminal or civil, that impedes a judge's or court clerk's ability to utilize available technologies to limit in-person contact is suspended until April 16, 2020.

This order expressly does not prohibit court proceedings by telephone, video, teleconferencing, or 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.

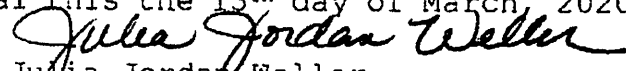
Any deadlines that are set by or subject to regulation by this Court that are set to expire between March 16, 2020 and April 16, 2020, are hereby extended to April 20, 2020. This Court cannot extend any statutory period of repose or statute of limitations period.

Orders of protection and temporary injunctions that would otherwise expire between March 16, 2020, and April 16, 2020, are hereby extended until April 16, 2020, unless the trial court elects to enter an order to the contrary.

This order is subject to modification, revision, or rescission by the Supreme Court at any time during the time periods stated herein.

Parker, C.J., Bolin, Shaw, Wise, Bryan, Stewart, and Mitchell, JJ., concur.

Witness my hand and seal this the 13th day of March, 2020.


Julia Jordan Weller
Clerk, Supreme Court of Alabama



VERNON BARNETT
Commissioner

State of Alabama Department of Revenue

(www.revenue.alabama.gov)

50 North Ripley Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36132

CURTIS E. STEWART
Deputy Commissioner

MICHAEL D. GAMBLE
Deputy Commissioner

DONALD J. GRAHAM
Deputy Commissioner

DERRICK COLEMAN
Deputy Commissioner

ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE

I, Vernon Barnett, Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Revenue, pursuant to the power granted to me under §40-2-11, Code of Alabama 1975, hereby declare that due to the extreme hardships placed on Alabama motor vehicle registrants across the state who may be unable to register or renew their motor vehicle registrations or pay property taxes on their motor vehicles because there is a state of emergency resulting from the potential spread of the coronavirus named COVID-19, it is necessary to assist and expedite all efforts of relief. In order to accommodate this need and provide assistance to Alabama citizens, I hereby issue the following order:

I. GENERAL RULE

(a) **EXTENSION OF TIME FOR OBTAINING MARCH 2020 MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS AND PAYING PROPERTY TAXES ON VEHICLES.**

For the purposes of applying Alabama's motor vehicle registration laws and property tax laws as related to the annual registration and renewal of vehicles during the month of March 2020, the registration deadline has been extended through April 15, 2020.

The extension includes the registration of vehicles purchased or otherwise acquired whereby the twenty (20) day registration requirement as provided for in §32-6-61, Code of Alabama 1975, falls during the period of March 17, 2020 through April 15, 2020. The extension also applies to motor vehicle registrations and renewals for vehicles registered pursuant to the International Registration Plan (IRP). Registrants will also be granted an extension to surrender license plates in order to comply with the mandatory liability insurance law.

(b) **PENALTY CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH MARCH 2020 MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS/RENEWALS AND PAYING PROPERTY TAXES ON MOTOR VEHICLES.**


Penalty charges associated with motor vehicle registrations and renewals extended through April 15, 2020, will not be charged until April 16, 2020. Additionally, penalty charges associated with motor vehicle property tax payments extended through April 15, 2020, will not be charged until April 16, 2020.

Entered this 16th day of March 2020

SIGNED


Vernon Barnett, Commissioner
Alabama Department of Revenue

ATTEST


Michael D. Gamble, Deputy Commissioner
Alabama Department of Revenue