Serial: 230972

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF MISSISSIPPI

No. 2020-AD-00001-SCT

IN RE: EMERGENCY ORDER RELATED TO CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER-6

In prior Emergency Administrative Orders, the Court has recognized that the national and state emergencies created by Coronavirus (COVID-19) require appropriate measures to protect the health and safety of the citizens of this State. Those measures are constantly changing and the Court continues to modify its orders to hinder the spread of COVID-19.

Upon request by the Mississippi Court Reporters Association, the Supreme Court and the Chief Justice, in his capacity as chief administrative officer of all courts in the state, find that any actual or implied requirement that persons qualified to administer an oath in the State of Mississippi, must be in the presence of witnesses for purposes of administering an oath for depositions and other legal testimony be suspended, so long as the qualified person can both see and hear the witness via audio-video communications equipment for purposes of readily identifying the witness.

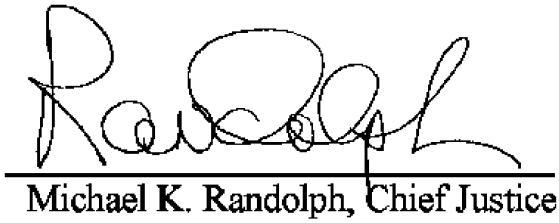
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that all persons qualified to administer an oath in the State of Mississippi may swear a witness remotely by audio-video communication technology from a location within the State of Mississippi, provided they can positively identify the witness.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if a witness is not located within the State of Mississippi, a witness may consent to being put on oath via audio-video communication technology by a person qualified to administer an oath in the State of Mississippi.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all rules of procedure, court orders, and opinions applicable to remote testimony, depositions, and other legal testimony, including the attestation of family law forms, that can be read to limit or prohibit the use of audio-video communications equipment to administer oaths remotely or to witness the attestation of family law forms, are hereby suspended until further order of this Court.

SO ORDERED.

DIGITAL SIGNATURE
Order#: 230972
Sig Serial: 100001352
Org: SC
Date: 03/20/2020



Michael K. Randolph, Chief Justice