SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA

O R D E R

Acting under the authority of Article V, Section 1 of Constitution of 1974, and the inherent power of this Court, and considering the continuing spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Louisiana, Governor John Bel Edwards' declaration of public health emergencies in Proclamation Numbers 25 JBE 2020, 27 JBE 2020, 30 JBE 2020 and 33 JBE 2020, President Donald Trump's declaration of a national emergency on March 13, 2020, the Orders of this Court dated March 16 and March 20, 2020, and in consideration of public health recommendations to reduce the risk of exposure to the virus and slowing the spread of the disease while balancing the need to protect the constitutional rights and public safety of the citizens of the state by maintaining access to Louisiana courts,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The provisions set forth in the Orders of this Court dated March 16, 2020, as amended by the Order dated March 20, 2020, remain in effect, but are further restricted as set forth below;

2. Courts must take immediate measures to limit access to courtrooms and other spaces, with absolute minimum physical contact, to practice social distancing and limit court activity to only the essential functions enumerated in Sections 2 and 3 of this Court's March 16, 2020 Order, as amended by the Order dated March 20, 2020, as modified herein, in accordance with the

"Stay at Home Order" issued by Governor Edwards in Proclamation 33 JBE 2020 on March 22, 2020.

3. As this situation is constantly changing, courts are further instructed to follow all guidelines issued by the Center for Disease Control, the President and the Governor, and to further limit access to courtroom and other spaces to the maximum number of people set forth in any future guideline or official proclamation that may be issued.

4. All essential court functions should be conducted with the use of video and telephone conferencing whenever possible. Any court lacking the technological capabilities to implement this mandate shall notify the Judicial Administrator of the Louisiana Supreme Court so that accommodations can be made.

5. The essential criminal matters set forth in Section 3 of this Court's March 16, 2020 Order should be conducted via video and/or telephone conferencing with increased frequency to alleviate potential overcrowding of jails, which is a public health emergency for citizens and jail personnel.

6. The essential civil matters set forth in Section 2 of this Court's March 16, 2020 Order should be conducted via video and/or telephone conferencing, including but not limited to civil protective orders, child in need of care proceedings, emergency child custody matters, proceedings for children removed from their home by emergency court order, proceedings related to emergency interdictions and mental health orders, temporary restraining orders and injunctions, and matters of public health related to this crisis and other emergency matters

necessary to protect the health, safety and liberty of individuals as determined by each court.

7. All matters that are resolved by agreement of the parties and with the approval of the court that do not involve any appearance at the court may proceed during the pendency of this order. This authority does not extend to any matters suspended by executive action by the Governor, including but not limited to evictions.

8. Courts should work with parish clerks to encourage in-person filings of court pleadings to be replaced with filing by other means, such as U.S. mail, e-filing, email or facsimile. In all criminal, juvenile and civil matters handled on an emergency or expedited basis, a record shall be kept under the direction of the acting judge for each action.

The Court may issue further Orders regarding this matter as necessary to address the circumstances arising from this pandemic and will post such Orders on the Court's website at www.lasc.org, and in the news media.

Given under our hands and seal this 23rd day of March A. D., 2020, New Orleans, Louisiana.

FOR THE COURT:

Chief Justice Bernette J. Johnson