IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA
IN RE: COVID - 19 PANDEMIC EMERGENCY RESPONSE
MAY 13, 2020

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 7:
RESUMPTION OF IN-PERSON HEARINGS AUTHORIZED AFTER MAY 15, 2020, AND CONTINUED SUSPENSION OF JURY TRIALS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

On May 8, 2020, Governor Kay Ivey announced the amendment of the "Safer at Home Order," effective May 11, 2020.

This Court hereby extends the state of emergency for the Judicial Branch of the State of Alabama pending further order. All administrative orders issued by this Court in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, except for Administrative Order No. 3 pertaining to briefing and filing deadlines, are hereby extended and shall remain in effect, except as set forth below.

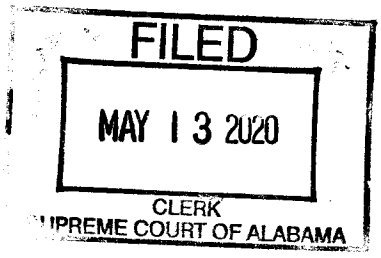
Subject to the approval of the Presiding Circuit Judge of each circuit and subject to the provisions of this order, in-person hearings in the circuit courts, district courts, juvenile courts, municipal courts, and probate courts are authorized to recommence after May 15, 2020.

For the purposes of determining whether to recommence in-person court hearings, the Presiding Circuit Judge is granted authority to make decisions regarding the safety and welfare of all court personnel in all courts within the circuit. The Presiding Circuit Judge is specifically authorized to adopt procedures that, in his or her discretion, will implement the recommendations and requirements of the "Safer at Home Order" so as to protect court employees and other individuals accessing all courts within the circuit. In making such determinations and before adopting any order or procedures, the Presiding Circuit Judge should consult with other judges in the circuit, the Chairman of the County Commission(s), the Circuit Clerk(s), the Sheriff(s), the District Attorney, and the Public Defender in counties or circuits having a full-time public defender.

Presiding Circuit Judges are authorized to extend the restriction of in-person court proceedings in any court beyond May 15, 2020, provided that a written order is entered and forwarded to the Chief Justice and provided that the order does not extend beyond August 15, 2020.

Jury trials shall remain suspended until September 14, 2020.

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

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

Julia Jordan Weller
Clerk of Court
Supreme Court of Alabama