

22ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY

PARISH OF WASHINGTON

**SIXTH AMENDMENT TO COURT'S ORDER OF MARCH 13, 2020
RE: CORONAVIRUS**

Acting under the authority of Article V, Section 1 of Constitution of 1974, and the inherent power of this Court, and considering the recent outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Louisiana, Governor John Bel Edwards' declaration of a public health emergency in Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020, Proclamation Number 58 JBE 2020 ordering Louisiana to enter Phase I of Resilient Louisiana, and Proclamation Number 59 JBE 2020, President Donald Trump's declaration of a national emergency on March 13, 2020, the Louisiana Supreme Court's Orders of April 6, 2020 and April 22, 2020, this Court's previous Orders of March 13, 2020, March 17, 2020, March 20, 2020, April 9, 2020, and April 24, 2020, the St. Tammany Parish President's Executive Order dated May 14, 2020, the Washington Parish President's Directive dated May 1, 2020 and in consideration of public health recommendations to reduce the risk of exposure to the virus and slow the spread of the disease while balancing the need to maintain access to Louisiana courts;

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Louisiana has ordered that the state move to Phase I under the White House COVID-19 guidance, effective May 15, 2020;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. All non-emergency civil and criminal matters set to be heard in-person from May 18 through May 29, 2020 are continued and are to be reset by the Court, with the following exceptions:

Division "A" – Criminal special settings on May 18, 2020 and May 21, 2020;

Division "C" – Criminal special settings on May 18, 2020 and May 20, 2020;

Division "F" – Criminal motions and arraignments on May 20, 2020, and criminal pre-trials and motions on May 21, 2020;

Division "H" – Felony arraignments for non-incarcerated persons on May 19, 2020, and criminal motions and pretrial conferences on May 20 and 21, 2020;

Division "J" – Felony arraignments for non-incarcerated persons on May 18, 2020;

Division "L" – All hearings are to proceed as scheduled, unless continued by the Court.

Pretrial conferences are to be scheduled in each case to determine whether the proceeding is to be held remotely or in-person.

All civil and criminal matters set for in-person hearing beginning June 1, 2020, will proceed as scheduled, except those matters which have been or will be scheduled remotely, provided safety conditions ordered below are maintained. From May 18 through June 5, 2020, any civil or criminal matter involving the participation of an inmate will be heard remotely through virtual hearings.

2. All Hearing Officer conferences will be conducted remotely by telephone or virtually by Zoom from May 18 through June 5, 2020. The means of proceeding on the hearing, any conditions set for the hearing, and the scheduling of the remote hearing are to be determined by the Judge, Commissioner, or Hearing Officer who is assigned to conduct the hearing, and are to be communicated by them to the participants in advance of the hearing.

3. Protective Order matters will proceed as scheduled, and will be heard either in-person or virtually, as determined by the Judge, Commissioner, or Hearing Officer who is assigned to conduct the hearing.

4. All Support Enforcement matters will proceed through virtual hearings except, in limited circumstances, for in-person appearances scheduled by the Hearing Officer beginning Wednesday, June 3, 2020. Hearing times shall be staggered and only named parties and their attorneys shall be permitted to enter the building for the hearing. Parties with Court dates between March 13, 2020 and May 15, 2020, are to report, in person, on June 1, 2020 through June 3, 2020, to receive service for a new Court date.

5. Bond Court is suspended through July 6, 2020.

6. SADIP Classes are suspended through July 5, 2020.

7. Felony cases – Those persons with notice to appear for a felony matter in March, April or May, 2020, are to report, in person, to receive service for a new court date as follows, unless your case is scheduled to proceed as outlined in paragraph 1 herein:

St. Tammany Parish

St. Tammany Parish Justice Center, Covington, Louisiana, south side entrance steps on June 1, 2020, June 2, 2020, June 3, 2020, June 4, 2020, and June 5, 2020 from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Washington Parish

The 911 Building (a.k.a. “old Franklinton Police Department”) behind the Washington Parish Sheriff’s Office, Franklinton, Louisiana on June 1, 2020, June 2, 2020, June 3, 2020, June 4, 2020, and June 5, 2020 from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

8. Misdemeanor Court is suspended through June 7, 2020. Those persons with notice to appear at Misdemeanor Court for any day in March, April or May, 2020, are to report, in person, to receive service for a new court date as follows:

St. Tammany Parish

St. Tammany Parish Justice Center, Covington, Louisiana, south side entrance steps on May 26, 2020; May 27, 2020; May 28, 2020 or May 29, 2020 from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Washington Parish

The 911 Building (a.k.a. “old Franklinton Police Department”) behind the Washington Parish Sheriff’s Office, Franklinton, Louisiana on May 26, 2020; May 27, 2020; May 28, 2020 or May 29, 2020 from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

9. Traffic Court is suspended through June 14, 2020, in St. Tammany Parish. Those persons with notice to appear at Traffic Court for any day in March, April or May, 2020, and who have not been served with a new date, are to report, in person, to receive service for a new court date as follows:

St. Tammany Parish

St. Tammany Parish Justice Center, Covington, Louisiana, south side entrance steps on May 26, 2020; May 27, 2020; May 28, 2020 or May 29, 2020 from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Washington Parish

The 911 Building (a.k.a. “old Franklinton Police Department”) behind the Washington Parish Sheriff’s Office, Franklinton, Louisiana on May 26, 2020; May 27, 2020; May 28, 2020 or May 29, 2020 from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

10. Specialty Court matters will continue to be heard remotely through June 5, 2020.

11. Juvenile Court matters will continue to be heard remotely through June 5, 2020.

12. Remote Virtual Hearings - Only the parties and their attorneys shall participate in the virtual hearings unless the Judge, Commissioner, or Hearing Officer who is assigned to conduct the hearing allows appearance by a person deemed to be a necessary witness. All participants in a virtual hearing shall be properly attired according to court rules and shall be located in an appropriate setting. Neither the parties, their attorneys, nor their agents or assigns, are to record by any means any part of the virtual hearing proceeding. A violation of these Court orders shall be considered grounds for a finding of contempt of court.

13. In-Person Hearings – Only the parties, their attorneys, and necessary witnesses, who are pre-approved by the Court, shall participate in an in-person hearing. Proper social distancing will be maintained. Masks are mandatory both in the Courtroom and the common areas of the Courthouse. Other safety measures as ordered below will be enforced. No parties or attorneys are to approach the Court, the Clerk, the Court Reporter, the Sheriff’s deputy, or any of the Court’s personnel within the courtroom.

14. Any and all preliminary or permanent injunctions, protective orders, temporary restraining orders, ex parte protective orders and/or criminal stay away orders issued pursuant to R.S. 9:361 et seq.,

R.S. 9:372, R.S. 46:1846, R.S. 46:2131 et seq., R.S. 46:2151, R.S. 46: 2171 et seq., R.S. 46:2181 et seq., Children's Code art. 1564 et seq., Code of Civil Procedure articles 3604 and/or 3607.1 and/or Code of Criminal Procedure articles 30, 320 and/or 871.1 which have been issued by this court and which would expire on or between the dates of May 15, 2020 and June 5, 2020 are hereby extended until the emergency matter is heard and an order is issued in connection therewith.

15. In Family Court matters, including Protective Orders, the time delays for filing objections to recommendations made by the Commissioner and Hearing Officers for matters heard since March 6, 2020, will begin to run on June 8, 2020.

16. All individuals seeking entrance to the St. Tammany Parish Justice Center and Washington Parish Courthouse for Court matters will be pre-screened before being allowed to enter. **ANYONE REFUSING TO COMPLY WITH THE PRE-SCREENING REQUIREMENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE COURTHOUSE.**

17. Pre-screening requires, but is not limited to, a temperature check, an oral questionnaire, and a mask check. Those without a mask will be provided a mask while supplies last. No children will be allowed to enter the Courthouse except as pre-approved by the Judge of the division. Only persons noticed with a scheduled Court appearance and persons otherwise authorized by a Judge shall be allowed to enter the building. Witnesses are to be on stand-by and will be contacted to enter the Courthouse when their testimony is required.

18. In St. Tammany Parish, excluding Court staff, each courtroom's occupancy will be limited to a maximum of 14 persons (25% occupancy with 6 foot spacing). In Washington Parish, excluding Court staff, only Courtroom 1 shall be utilized with a maximum occupancy of 30 persons (25% occupancy with 6 foot spacing).

19. Elevator occupancy shall be limited to 2 persons.

20. Hallways and corridors are to remain clear and are to be used for access only. Six feet of social distancing shall be maintained. Disinfecting measures are to be undertaken after each Court hearing.

21. Parties and/or their attorneys shall complete all necessary forms prior to the date and time scheduled for remote and in-person hearings, and shall file or produce as per the Court's orders.

22. Through June 5, 2020, the St. Tammany Parish Clerk of Court's office will be available from 8:30 a.m. until 12 p.m. on Monday through Friday, for the purpose of accepting the above-mentioned emergency filings and any other filings which, by law, require original documents to be filed. All other filings will be accepted Monday through Friday by electronic filing (efiling at www.sttammanyclerk.org) and facsimile filing (via fax (985) 809-8777). The recordation of land records will be accomplished by electronic recording (e-recording at www.sttammanyclerk.org). Marriage licenses may be obtained by appointment only. Questions are to be directed to the Clerk at (985) 809-8700.

23. Through June 5, 2020, the Washington Parish Clerk of Court's office will be available from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, with access through the front Courthouse entrance only. No one will be allowed beyond the swing gate in the Clerk's office lobby. The recordation of land records may be accomplished by electronic recording (e-recording at www.washingtonparishclerk.org). Questions are to be directed to the Clerk at (985) 839-4663.

24. Any request for public access to a Court proceeding must be requested in advance and directed to the Court Administrator's office (985) 809-5300.

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.22ndjdc.org; the Louisiana Supreme Court's website at www.lasc.org, and in the news media.

Covington, Louisiana, this 15th day of May, 2020.

FOR THE COURT:



HON. DAWN AMACKER
CHIEF JUDGE