

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 8**  
**ALLOWING SELECT IN-PERSON COURT PROCEEDINGS**

**WHEREAS**, the Montgomery County Circuit, District and City of Montgomery Municipal Courts (hereinafter Montgomery County Court System) have been heretofore restricted and or prohibited from conducting in-person court appearances in order to assist in stopping the spread of COVID-19 cases, and

**WHEREAS**, the Presiding Judge has the responsibility under Sections 12-17-24, 12-12-10 of the Code of Alabama, 1975 and several Administrative Orders of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Alabama to operate an effective judicial system and maintain case management, and

**WHEREAS**, the Presiding Judge has the responsibility under Rule 6 of the Alabama Rules of Judicial Administration to adopt local judicial administrative rules and establish policies and plans, and

**WHEREAS**, the Presiding Judge as well as the various Circuit Judges believe it is in the best interest of the court system to develop policies to operate the Montgomery County Court System on a limited basis,

**THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED** that the following policies, rules and guidelines are established as it relates to **limited in-person** court procedures in the Montgomery County Court System. The policies, rules and guidelines shall govern **limited in-person** court proceedings until further order of the Court.

(A). To prevent over crowding in Montgomery County Detention Facility and the Municipal Jail, **limited in-person** court proceedings are hereby allowed.

(B). Each Judge in the Montgomery County Court System is permitted to hold hearings for in-custody inmates and to conduct Emergency proceedings in accordance with prior Alabama Supreme Court mandates.

(C) Each Judge is permitted to hold a court hearing during morning and afternoon hours provided that the number of inmates or persons on each docket does not exceed five (5) inmates or persons.

(D). The Sheriff of Montgomery County is hereby authorized to transport, from jail, no more than five (5) inmates per docket for each Judge holding a court docket.

(E) Each inmate shall wear a face mask and have his or her hands sanitized before leaving the jail and before returning to the jail.

(F). Each Judge holding a limited in-person shall require all persons in the courtroom to adhere to CDC protocols, i.e., face masks and PPE.

(G). All prior Administrative Orders issued by the Alabama Supreme Court and the Presiding Judge not in conflict with this Order shall remain in force.

(H). Each Judge holding an emergency hearing shall coordinate with and alert Court Security of such hearing and provide the same with a copy of the docket listing the parties to the hearing. If need be the Judge shall require the parties to identify the witnesses appearing for the hearing and provide their names to Court Security.

THE CIRCUIT CLERK IS DIRECTED TO SPREAD THIS ORDER ON THE MINUTES OF THE COURT'S RECORD AND COPY SHALL BE DELIVERED TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR OF COURTS.

Done this 12<sup>th</sup> day of June 2020

/s/Johnny Hardwick, Presiding Judge