

NOTICE TO LAWYERS

It is hereby noted that there is to be limited "in-person contact" for any Status Conferences/Hearings/Trials until April 16, 2020 or further Order of the Court. The various Judges of the Circuit can conduct court proceedings in compliance with orders from the Chief Justice.

On March 13th, 2020, Chief Justice Tom Parker by Administrative Order declared a State of Emergency for the Alabama Unified Judicial System directing Alabama Judges to limit in-person contact in the courtrooms with narrow exceptions, which do not apply to every proceeding. Moreover, on March 21, 2020 the Montgomery County Commission by Resolution ordered closure of all county buildings until March 31, 2020 in response to the National Emergency Response to COVID-19, therefore this Court, in order to conserve judicial resources and to safeguard the health of all litigants may adjudicate their dockets by way of a telephone and/or video conference call. We are hopeful that the National Emergency will be over soon. No is sure when things will be business as usual.

The telephone and/or video conference calls can be conducted in a manner initiated by the court or as directed by the court. The court can direct which party has the responsibility for setting up the call whether telephonic or video. While the Administrative Office of Courts has recognized several platforms available for use, please contact the various Judges to ascertain which platform to use.

The judge presiding over the docket can decide which method to use to hear the case provided that the Attorneys of record or Pro Se Party is given notice of the telephone and/or video conference call. Please note that the Court can set the order in which cases are called on its Docket and will be hard pressed to set a time certain. The Court begs your indulgence during this process which may be utilized until further Order of the Court.

The Attorney(s) of Record or Pro Se Party should be available to receive a call starting at the time set by the court. The Court will call each side using the telephone numbers and/or email addresses listed in the Court's file. The conference call will can be recorded by the court reporter.

The court would appreciate being notified if a hearing is no longer needed. The Court must be notified by way of all settlements and/or resolution of any pending motion no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the conference call.

As is the case now, Motions can be e-filed as we have always done in the past. Proposed Order can be e-filed as is our practice.

Done this the 26th day of March, 2020.

/s/JOHNNY HARDWICK

PRESIDING JUDGE