

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

May 14th, 2020

WHEREAS, a public health emergency exists around the world, including the United States of America and the State of Alabama, requiring social distancing measures to reduce the increase in person-to-person transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19;

WHEREAS, an Administrative Order Suspending All In-Person Court Proceedings for the Next Thirty Days dated March 13th, 2020, was issued by the Alabama Supreme Court providing that all in-person proceedings in all states and local courts in Alabama, including, but not limited to, proceedings in the circuit court, district court (including cases on the small claims docket), juvenile court, municipal court, probate court, and appellate courts, are suspended beginning Monday, March 16th, 2020 through Thursday, April 16th, 2020, subject to certain exceptions for emergency proceeding set forth therein;

WHEREAS, the afore mentioned Administrative Order was extended through May 15th, 2020;

WHEREAS, an Administrative Order authorizing the Presiding Circuit Judge in each circuit to approve the recommencement of in-person hearing within their circuit, subject to certain provisions, was issued by the Alabama Supreme Court on May 13th, 2020;

WHEREAS, there exists an ongoing need and effort to stop the spread of the COVID 19 virus, while resuming some normal activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, by the Presiding Judge of the 28th Judicial Circuit of Baldwin County on this date, May 13th, 2020, that in-person hearings and non-jury trials, in the circuit court, district court, juvenile court, municipal court, probate court, together with circuit clerk services, shall resume beginning May 18th, 2020. subject to the following:


1. All individuals entering the Courthouses and individual courtrooms within Baldwin County, Alabama, shall comply with the minimum 6 feet of separation suggested by the Center for Disease Control.

2. All individuals seeking entry into any courthouse in Baldwin County shall comply with health screening in place before they will be granted entrance to the courthouse.
3. Only individuals with cases set for that date and time will be admitted in the Bay Minette, Fairhope or Foley, Circuit and District Courts.
4. No backpacks, bags, or large purses will be allowed into the Bay Minette, Fairhope or Foley Circuit and District Courthouses.
5. The wearing of appropriate masks and gloves is allowed subject to the directions of Court Security and the Court.
6. Admittance to the offices of the Circuit Clerk of Baldwin County will be limited to those individuals needing admittance to the Circuit Clerk for the following services: filings by self-represented parties, payment of fines and costs, passport applications and requests for absentee ballots.
7. Admittance to the Probate Courts, will continue to be by appointment only at the discretion of the Judge of Probate.
8. Any other restrictions, rules or suspensions imposed by the respective trial judges, that may pertain to their courtrooms, deemed necessary to protect the public and courthouse staff from this COVID 19 virus shall be complied with.
9. All State Court Offices within Baldwin County should continue to comply with those best practices currently in place to ensure the safety and welfare of all court personnel within the circuit.

Anyone found to be in violation of this order will be subject to being denied admittance to the courthouse, removal from the courthouse and shall be subject to the contempt powers of the Court.

This order shall in no way end, suspend or limit the use of virtual hearings by the Courts of Baldwin County, as mandated by the Administrative Orders of the Alabama Supreme Court.

DONE THIS 14th DAY OF MAY, 2020



SCOTT P. TAYLOR
PRESIDING CIRCUIT JUDGE
28TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA