

NOTICE TO BALDWIN, MOBILE AND ALABAMA STATE BAR REGARDING 30 DAY LIMITATIONS ON IN-PERSON COURT PROCEEDINGS IN BALDWIN COUNTY CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT COURTS

Pursuant to the March 13, 2020 order of the Alabama Supreme Court the following procedures will be implemented effect March 16, 2020 in all Circuit and District Courts.

All circuit and district court scheduled beginning March 16, 2020 and continuing through April 16, 2020 are continued with the following exceptions:

- **Proceedings necessary to protect constitutional rights of criminal defendants, including bond- related matters and plea agreements for incarcerated individuals.**
- **Civil and criminal jury trials that are in progress as of March 13 , 2020.**
- **Proceedings related to protection from abuse.**
- **Proceedings related to emergency child custody and protection orders.**
- **Department of Human Resources emergency matters related to child protection.**
- **Proceedings related to petitions for temporary injunctive relief.**
- **Proceedings related to emergency mental health orders.**
- **Proceedings related to emergency protection of elderly or vulnerable persons.**
- **Proceedings directly related to the COVID- 19 public health emergency.**
- **Any emergency proceeding as needed by law enforcement.**

In the event you are uncertain if your case falls in this category please contact your Judges office **by email** as soon as possible. Please **do not call** as we expect lines will be busy and you will get a faster response via email.

Do not send lengthy email requests with extensive requests for information. These will only slow the sharing of information and will likely be dealt with last.

Cases that are continued will receive orders resetting through ALACOURT. If you do not receive a notice within two weeks of your currently scheduled date, email the court.

Please notify your clients of the current situation ASAP and instruct them **not to contact the court** but to maintain contact with your office for updated information on their case.

During this time of emergency and to ensure that we return to normal proceedings as soon as possible, we are asking that attorneys limit filings to emergency issues only during the next 30 days.

No one outside of courthouse staff will be admitted entry to the Judges' offices. In the event you need to contact the court, again, **email will be the fastest way to get a response.**

Please notify clients needing to **make payments** on fines, court costs and/or restitution, to **mail payments in to 312 Courthouse Square, Suite 10, Bay Minette, AL 36507 Attn: Jody Wise** and make sure payments are **money orders or cashiers checks only (NO CASH)**. They should also **include case number**.

Please notify clients needing to report for **PTI monitoring** to contact the District Attorney's office at (251) 937-0274 and leave a good contact number so that DA personnel can contact them with instructions.

Do not schedule any client meetings at the Courthouses as you will not be granted entry.

The Law Library will not be accessible.

This information only pertains to the Circuit and District Court of Baldwin County. This **does not include** Baldwin County Bar functions or any depositions, mediations or other matters outside of the courthouses in Baldwin County.

NOTE THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA FOR ENTERING THE COURTHOUSES IN BALDWIN COUNTY:

-No Attorney, party or witness will be admitted without their case number and Judge's Name so that security can confirm that they need entry to the courthouse;

- If you or any member of your household are experiencing flu like symptoms, do not enter the courthouse;
- If you or any member of your household has been on a cruise or has traveled to an area with active cases, do not enter the courthouse;
- If you have been asked to self-quarantine by any hospital or health agency or any medical health professional, do not enter the courthouse;
- If you have been diagnosed with or have had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or their families, do not enter the courthouse.

I am asking that each member of our great Alabama Bar please aid the Court in this difficult time and make every effort to keep good lines of communication open with your clients. Encourage them not to rely on social media or even local media for information on their cases or court proceedings but to instead only rely on official court notices and orders or the information you provide them. We will do everything we can to push out timely and accurate information to our local and state bar associations and through Alacourt notices on specific cases. Please be patient and only contact the court with emergency issues or with limited and specific requests as to matters set within the coming week. **In the event you must contact the court please do so by email and include brief but specific requests and identify the exact case number you are seeking information on.**

Thank You,

Scott P. Taylor
Presiding Circuit Judge
28th Judicial Circuit
Baldwin County, AL