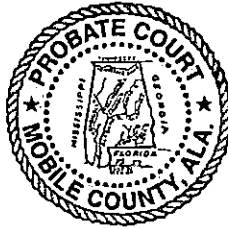


Don Davis
Judge of Probate

C. Mark Erwin
Chief Clerk/Administrator

W. Rushing Payne, Jr.
Chief of Staff/Chief Deputy Clerk



Judicial Division - (251) 574-6001
Recording Division - (251) 574-6040
Records Division - (251) 574-6070
Elections Division - (251) 574-6080
Accounts Division - (251) 574-6101
Facsimile - (251) 574-6003

PROBATE COURT OF MOBILE COUNTY, ALABAMA

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL LAWYERS PRACTICING BEFORE THE PROBATE COURT OF MOBILE COUNTY

FROM: DON DAVIS

RE: MEASURES BEING TAKEN AS A RESULT OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

DATE: MARCH 13, 2020

Friends

I met with Dr. Bert Eichold, Mobile County's Health Officer, yesterday, to review proposed practices and procedures for the Probate Court to implement to maintain continuity of the Court's operations and promote the health and well being of the Court's staff and all persons interacting with the Court during the coronavirus pandemic. Many of these points are basic common sense - things we learned in kindergarten. I would like to share the key points of the Court's approach with you:

1. If you have a fever or if you have a persistent cough - GO TO THE DOCTOR and DON'T COME TO COURT. MOVE TO CONTINUE YOUR HEARING.
2. Lawyers should be in contact with their clients and witnesses BEFORE a scheduled court hearing to ensure that their clients and witnesses are well - i.e. don't have a fever or persistent cough. If they do - MOVE TO CONTINUE THE HEARING - WE DO NOT WANT SICK PEOPLE IN THE COURTROOM.
3. Only essential people need to be present in the courtroom. Advise your clients that friends who are not scheduled to be witnesses in evidentiary hearings should NOT be in the courtroom.
4. We will be limiting the number of persons who are in the courtrooms at one time. There should be between 24 and 36 inches between persons sitting in the courtroom benches.
5. You and your clients and witnesses should allow additional time to clear through the security checkpoint on the first floor of the Mobile County Government Center Annex - as spacing parameters for the wait line have been established. Further, no more than 3 persons should

Memorandum To All Lawyers Practicing Before The Mobile County Probate Court

March 13, 2020

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be on an elevator at one time.

6. Recall that many aspects of the Court's operations are electronic in nature now. You can file pleadings electronically. Most legal documents that need to be recorded in Mobile County's public record system can be recorded electronically. If you need assistance as to these matters, contact Ms. Miranda Phelps, who leads the Court's IT Division [(251)574-6090 or mphelps@probate.mobilecountyal.gov].
7. Recall also that the public records of Mobile County are largely available electronically through the Court's Internet website. If you need assistance as to these matters, contact Ms. Miranda Phelps, who leads the Court's IT Division.
8. In terms of judicial matters - please note that our court is equipped to utilize "Court Call" and have video conferences/hearings in the Court's large conference room that is located adjacent to Courtroom Number One. Lawyers are responsible for payment of the fee to Court Call for utilization of their services. The lawyers who have utilized it have advised that it is very economical. If you desire to schedule a video conference contact Tracie Ford [(251)574-6021 or tford@probate.mobilecountyal.gov] or Stephanie McNally [(251)574-6020 or smcnally@probate.mobilecountyal.gov]. **Please note that we cannot utilize video conferencing in mental health commitment cases.** *In cases where there is a dispute,* the use of video conferencing will be in the discretion of the Court and require the consent of all parties in interest. Court Call's Internet website address is www.courtcall.com. Court Call's reservation numbers are: (888) 882-6878 and (310) 342-0888. The Court's contact person at Court Call is Ms. Amanda Kenny. Her telephone number is (888) 882-6878, ext. 812 and her email address is akenny@courtcall.com.

If you have any questions concerning the aforesaid, please do not hesitate to contact either Mark Erwin or me. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation and assistance.



Don Davis
Judge of Probate