

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF THE TENTH CHANCERY DISTRICT
FORREST, LAMAR, MARION, PEARL RIVER, AND PERRY COUNTIES

**IN RE: COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY
COVID-19 AND RELATED CORONAVIRUS NO. 3**

DEC 11 2020

LANCE C. REID
Chancery Clerk

This Court continues to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and will enter Orders as data and circumstances dictate. The Court has the responsibility to balance the public-health risks involved with in-court appearances as it relates to fulfilling its constitutional and statutory duty to keep courts open to the public in a safe manner.

This Court has operated under Orders issued by the Mississippi Supreme Court and the national emergency declaration by the President of the United States of America since the declaration of COVID-19 being classified as a “global pandemic.” Given the significant number of identified and projected cases of COVID-19 in the 10th Chancery Court District and the severity of risks posed to the public, employees, law enforcement officers, and given the public health recommendations from local, state, and national government authorities, it is hereby ORDERED that, effective December 21, 2020:

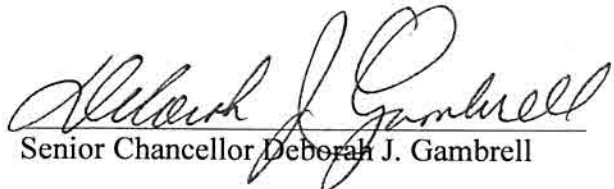
1. There will be no in-person court appearances before any Chancery Judge in the 10th Chancery Court District scheduled prior to January 11, 2021. This Order does not affect or impede any Judge’s consideration of motions, Rule 81 hearings, or any other matters that can be resolved by the Court via telephonic/video conferences;
2. This shall not apply to any matters scheduled for in-person Court appearances scheduled for December 14, 2020 through December 18, 2020;
3. Any requests for a matter to be heard by Zoom should be made via email to the appropriate Court Administrator and Staff Attorney;

4. The Court specifically finds that justice will be served by entering the herein order, inasmuch as the best interests of the public's health and safety outweighs any potential adverse effect of the continuances imposed upon any party;
5. This Order shall not restrict any Judge's authority to conduct a case-by-case exception to continuances when reviewing or considering trials, after conferring with all counsel of record;
6. The 10th Chancery Court District remains open and all staff will be working remotely and can be contacted by email.

This General Order shall become effective on December 11, 2020, and shall expire on January 11, 2021, unless extended by a supplemental order of the Court. Additionally, any section of this Order which conflicts with any Order of the Mississippi Supreme Court, any state law, any directives of local, state, federal court, governmental healthcare or public safety agency, shall conform to the requirements of said entities or agencies.

The Clerk is directed to assist the Court and parties with preserving service of process in all pending matters. A copy of this order shall be conspicuously placed in the Courthouse. All parties and attorneys are further directed to work with the Court Administrators, Joy Wiley, Court Administrator for Judge Gambrell and Judge Sheldon, joy@co.forrest.ms.us, and Gloria Moorer, Court Administrator for Judge Smallwood and Judge Smith, gloria@co.forrest.ms.us, in the prompt rescheduling of these matters.

SO ORDERED THIS the 11th day of December, A.D., 2020.


Senior Chancellor Deborah J. Gambrell