

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

FILED
MAR 17 2020

LANCE C. REID

Chancery Clerk

**IN RE: COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY
COVID-19 AND RELATED CORONAVIRUS**

This General Order is being issued in response to the recent outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the United States and COVID-19's projected invasion of the Tenth Chancery District. As of the date of this Order, COVID-19 has been declared a "global pandemic" and on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency. The Court has received, reviewed, and considered the *Emergency Administrative Order* entered by the Chief Justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court on March 13, 2020, and the *Emergency Administrative Order – 2* entered by the Chief Justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court on March 15, 2020. Given the significant number of identified and projected cases of COVID-19 in the Tenth Chancery 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 March 17, 2020:

1. All matters scheduled for an in-Court appearance before any Chancery Judge in the Tenth Chancery Court District set on or prior to May 15, 2020 are hereby **CONTINUED**, pending further Order of the Court. Attorneys are directed to obtain new Hearing Dates from the Court Administrators and to provide Orders of Continuance to the Court to preserve process;
2. With regard to civil matters and the Court's inability to measure the health status and medical spectrum of the parties, witnesses and spectators and the Court's inability to know the effect of the public health recommendations or the availability of attorneys representing

litigants and the court staff required to be present in the courtroom, the herein Court specifically finds that the ends of 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 herein continuances imposed upon any party;

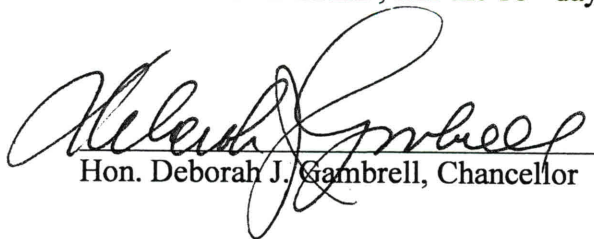
3. This Order shall not restrict any Judge's authority to conduct a case-by-case exception to the herein ordered continuances when reviewing or considering trials, after conferring with all counsel of record;
4. This Order does not affect or impede and Judge's consideration of motions that can be resolved by the Court, without a court appearance. Nor does this Order preclude telephonic conferences set to resolve court matters;
5. The Tenth Chancery Court remains open. Staff in the Clerks' Office will be available as directed by the Chancery Clerk. Mail will be received and the Chancery Clerk's Office will remain open for filings. Electronic filings may still be made on the Courts' Mississippi Electronic Court ("MEC") system. The public is encouraged to continue utilizing the Chancery Clerk's Office so long as they follow the directives of the Clerk, as well as all applicable public health guidelines.

The herein General Order shall become effective on March 17, 2020, and shall expire on May 15, 2020, 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 or any directives of any local, state, or federal court, or governmental healthcare or public safety agency shall conform to the requirements of said entities or agencies.

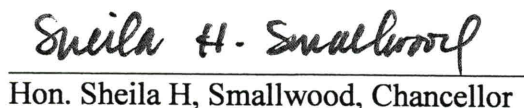
The Clerk is directed to assist the Court and parties with preserving service of process in all pending matters. A copy of this order shall be conspicuously placed in the Courthouse and

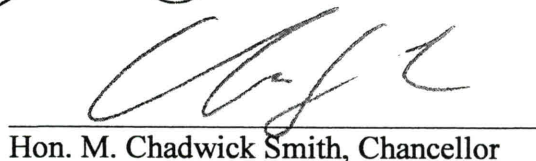
should be further distributed to area bar associations. All parties and attorneys are further directed to diligently work with the Court Administrators, Georgia Carpenter, Court Administrator for Judge Gambrell and Judge Sheldon, georgia@co.forrest.ms.us, and Gloria Moorer, Court Administrator for Judge Smallwood and Judge Smith, gloria@co.forrest.ms.us, in the prompt rescheduling of these matters.

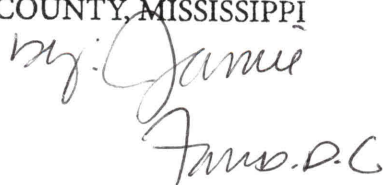
SO ORDERED, this the 16th day of March, 2020.


Hon. Deborah J. Gambrell, Chancellor


Hon. Rhea H. Sheldon, Chancellor


Hon. Sheila H. Smallwood, Chancellor


Hon. M. Chadwick Smith, Chancellor

ATTEST
A True Copy
This the 16th day of March 2020
Lance C. Reid, Clerk
CHANCERY COURT, FORREST
COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Lance C. Reid

