

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISHES OF MOREHOUSE AND OUACHITA
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

In Re:

COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES
CREATED BY COVID-19
(CORONAVIRUS)

SUPPLEMENTAL COVID-19 ORDER - 2

Considering the order of the Louisiana Supreme Court dated March 20, 2020 extending the time period of their previous COVID-19 Order; the March 23, 2020 Order of the Supreme Court urging that access to courtrooms and other spaces be limited; the Proclamation of Governor Edwards dated March 22, 2020 limiting activities outside the home; and in an effort to reduce the number of persons in the courthouses, the 4th JDC issues the following supplement to its previous Orders, dated March 13, 2020 and March 18, 2020, concerning COVID-19:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that normal civil order signing is suspended. Any party wishing to present a non-emergency matter that is routinely presented to the civil duty Judge is to file that pleading with the Clerk of Court and it will be considered by the randomly assigned civil section of this Court as those matters are given by the Clerk to the assigned section in the normal course of business. The Clerk of Court, as well as the Court, strongly encourages these filings, as well as any other filings with the Clerk, be done by mail and/or fax when possible (and for Ouachita Parish mortgage and conveyance filings, they be filed through their e-filing system).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that for civil matters requiring immediate attention, the Court will only entertain emergency child custody matters pursuant to La. Code of Civil Procedure art. 3945, emergency interdictions and mental health orders, matters of public health related to this crisis, and other emergency matters necessary to protect the health, safety and liberty of individuals. Any of these matters shall first be filed with the Clerk of Court, then be presented to the

randomly assigned civil section of this Court. The party filing the matter shall provide sufficient contact information for all the parties and witnesses to conduct any emergency hearings via audio/video and/or telephone if necessary. The party filing such a matter shall first contact the assigned Judge's chambers directly to facilitate the presentation of such a request to the assigned Judge. In the event the assigned Judge cannot be reached, then the civil duty Judge shall be contacted to consider the matter. The civil duty Judge will continue to consider civil protective orders. The contact information for each Judge and duty schedules are located on this Court's website (www.4jdc.com).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, except as otherwise provided for herein, the previous Orders of this Court concerning COVID-19 shall remain in full force and effect (the previous Orders can be found on this Court's website). Consistent with the Supreme Court's directive, the instant Order, as well as the previous Orders of this Court concerning COVID-19, shall now remain in effect through 8:30 a.m. on April 14, 2020, or until further Orders of this Court.

While the Morehouse and Ouachita courthouses remain open during regular business hours, the Court, as well as other Offices and Agencies contained within the courthouses, may limit public access to their offices as they deem appropriate for the health and safety of their employees and the public.

The public is encouraged to periodically check the website of the Fourth Judicial District Court for additional information and updates (www.4jdc.com).

Dated this 24 day of March, 2020.



DANIEL J. ELLENDER, CHIEF JUDGE
4TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT