



For Immediate Release
March 13, 2020

Healthcare professionals around the world are focusing their attention on reducing and ultimately stopping the spread of the Coronavirus also known as COVID-19 and containment strategies are being initiated around the globe to help in that effort. The Juvenile Court of Memphis & Shelby County and the Juvenile Court Clerk's Office are committed to running its daily operations with safety first guidelines designed to reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19 by Juvenile Court & Clerk staff and the children and families we serve. Any permitted in-court proceedings shall be limited to attorneys, parties, witnesses, security officers, and other necessary persons, as determined by the trial judge. In compliance with the Tennessee Supreme Court Order, effective at the close of business today (03/13/2020) and until further notice the following practices have been implemented by the Honorable Dan H. Michael – Judge - Juvenile Court Memphis & Shelby County. Also attached is the Order Suspending In-Person Court Proceedings from the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Dan H. Michael – Judge, JCMSC

FILED

MAR 13 2020

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF MEMPHIS AND SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

IN RE: COVID-19 PANDEMIC

JUVENILE COURT
OF MEMPHIS
AND SHELBY COUNTY
2020 MAR 13 PM 5:21
CLERK OF COURT

ORDER SUSPENDING IN-PERSON COURT PROCEEDINGS

JUVENILE COURT CLERK

BY: [Signature] D.C.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court has declared a state of emergency for the Judicial Branch of Tennessee government. A copy of the Supreme Court of Tennessee Order No. ADM2020-00428, filed March 13, 2020, is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. First and foremost, the Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County is open and will remain open under all circumstances, subject to the provisions of said order.

All in-person proceedings in the Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County are suspended from the close of business on Friday, March 13, 2020 through Tuesday, March 31, 2020, subject to the exceptions below. Non-emergency cases that are set for hearing during this period of time will be continued and reset to a future date.

Exceptions to this suspension of in-person court proceedings include, but are not limited to:

- Proceedings necessary to protect constitutional rights of delinquent defendants including detention-related matters and plea agreements for detained juveniles.
- Proceedings related to relief from abuse, emergency child custody orders, Department of Children's Services emergency matters related to child protection, petitions for temporary injunctive relief, and proceedings related to emergency protection of vulnerable persons wherein this Court has jurisdiction.
- Proceedings necessary to protect the constitutional rights of incarcerated individuals including bond-related matters and in custody contempt related issues.
- Other exceptions as approved by the Juvenile Court Judge.

The manner in which in-person court proceedings for the exceptions listed above are to be conducted are as follows, and all in-court proceedings shall be limited to attorneys, parties, witnesses, security officers, and other necessary persons, as determined by the trial Judge.

The Temporary Docket Schedule effective March 16, 2020 through March 31, 2020 shall be:

Monday – Friday

9:00 A.M. Preliminary Hearings/Emergency Motions

1:00 P.M. Detention Hearings/Plea Docket/Revocation Hearings

1:00 P.M. In Custody Contempt Hearings

If it becomes necessary to close the Juvenile Court's office or the Juvenile Court Clerk's office during the period of suspension, these offices shall remain accessible by telephone and/or email to the extent possible during their regular business hours. If available, drop boxes should be used for conventionally filed documents.

This order expressly does not prohibit court proceedings by telephone, video, teleconferencing, email, or other means that do not involve in-person contact. This order does not affect this Court's consideration of matters that can be resolved without in-person proceedings.

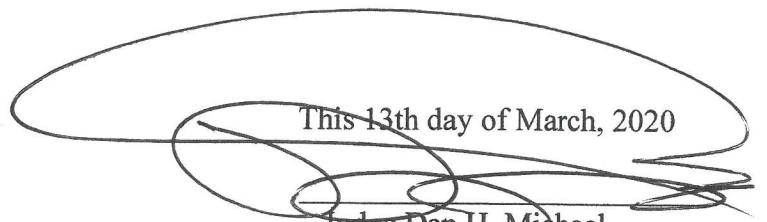
Deadlines set forth in court rules, statutes, ordinances, administrative rules or otherwise that are set to expire between March 13, 2020 and March 31, 2020 are hereby extended through April 6, 2020. Statutes of limitations and statutes of repose that would otherwise expire during the period between March 13, 2020 and April 6, 2020 are hereby extended through April 6, 2020. Deadlines, statutes of limitations, and statutes of repose that are not set to expire between March 13, 2020 and April 6, 2020 are not extended or tolled by this order.

Orders of protection and temporary injunctions that would otherwise expire between March 13, 2020 and March 31, 2020 are hereby extended until April 6, 2020.

Under the terms of this order, the courts of Tennessee remain open, consistent with the Judicial Branch's obligation to mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19.

This order is intended to be interpreted broadly for protection of the public from risks associated with COVID-19.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED.


This 13th day of March, 2020
Judge Dan H. Michael
Juvenile Court Judge

dbk/DHM