



For Immediate Release
March 26, 2020

In response to the escalation of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the spread of the Coronavirus locally and statewide, the Juvenile Court of Memphis & Shelby County and the Juvenile Court Clerk's Office will remain committed and ever vigilant to running its daily operations with "safety first priority" guidelines designed to reduce the risk and hopefully eliminate the possibility of contracting COVID-19 by Juvenile Court & Clerk staff and the children and families we serve. Any permitted in-court proceedings shall continue to be limited to attorneys, parties, witnesses, security officers, and other necessary persons, as determined by the trial judge. We stand in compliance with the Tennessee Supreme Court Order, effective at the today (03/25/2020) and the Executive Order by Mayor Lee Harris issued Tuesday, March 24, 2020, and until further notice the following additional practices shall be implemented by the Honorable Dan H. Michael – Judge - Juvenile Court Memphis & Shelby County.

- *A limited number of trials and hearings will take place for those children currently housed in detention starting on April 1, 2020, in order to try and reduce the Juvenile Detention population as an overall safety measure during this time of emergency status.*
- *All previously issued Court Orders including Custody and Visitation orders must be followed by all parties.*

The Order Suspending In-Person Court Proceedings from the Tennessee Supreme Court and the Executive Order by Mayor Lee Harris, Declaration of Local Emergency are also available upon request. Judge Michael's order is attached.

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF MEMPHIS AND SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

FILED

IN RE: COVID-19 PANDEMIC

~~ORDER~~ ~~MAR 26 2020~~ CONTINUING SUSPENSION OF IN-PERSON COURT PROCEEDINGS AND

JUVENILE COURT CLERK EXTENSION OF DEADLINES
BY  D.C.

On March 13, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court declared a state of emergency for the Judicial Branch of Tennessee government. On March 25, 2020 the Tennessee Supreme Court continued the suspension of in-person Court Proceedings and extension of deadlines. A copy of the Supreme Court of Tennessee Order No. ADM2020-00428, filed March 25, 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 Thursday, April 30, 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 related to statutory order of protection hearings after entry of an ex parte order as necessary to satisfy any due process concerns.
- Proceedings related to emergency child custody or visitation orders.
- Proceedings related to the voluntary surrender of parental rights.
- Settlements involving a minor or a person with a disability.
- Department of Children's Services emergency matter related to child safety, placement permanency, or federal funding for children in foster care.
- Proceedings related to petitions for temporary injunctive relief.

- Proceedings related to emergency protection of vulnerable persons wherein this Court has jurisdiction.
- Proceedings directly related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- 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, after consultation with and approval from, the Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

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 from the date of the entry of this order through April 30, 2020 shall be:

Monday – Friday

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

9:00 A.M. In Custody Delinquency Hearings (effective beginning April 1, 2020)

9:30 A.M. In Custody Transfer Hearings (effective beginning April 1, 2020)

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

1:00 P.M. In Custody Contempt Hearings

Judges, Magistrates and their staff shall ensure that social distancing and other such measures are strictly observed.

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 May 5, 2020 are hereby extended through May 6, 2020. Statutes of limitations and statutes of repose that would otherwise expire during the period between March 13, 2020 and May 5, 2020 are hereby extended through May 6, 2020. Deadlines,

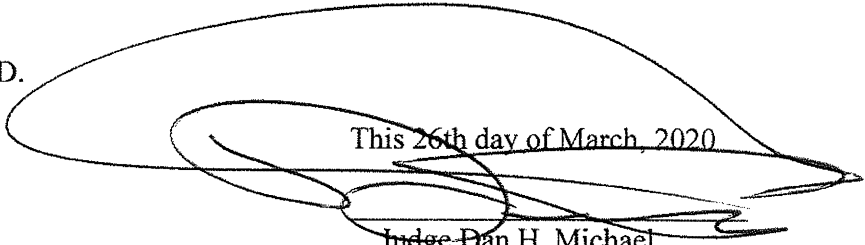
statutes of limitations, and statutes of repose that are not set to expire between March 13, 2020 through May 5, 2020 are not extended or tolled by this order.

Orders of protection and temporary injunctions that would otherwise expire between March 13, 2020 and May 5, 2020 are hereby extended until May 6, 2020.

Under the terms of this order, the Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee shall 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 26th day of March, 2020

Judge Dan H. Michael
Juvenile Court Judge

dbk/DHM