

Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County will continue to conduct as much business as possible by means other than in-person court proceedings. Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County will to continue and even increase the use of telephone, teleconferencing, email, video conferencing or other means that do not involve in-person contact. All of these methods are the preferred options over in-person court proceedings.

The Temporary Docket Schedule from the date of the entry of this order through May 31, 2020 pending further orders of this Court shall be:

Monday – Friday

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

9:00 A.M. In Custody Delinquency Hearings

9:30 A.M. In Custody Transfer Hearings

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

1:00 P.M. In Custody Contempt Hearings

Additional dockets may be set via Zoom.

Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County will continue to operate under the guidelines and restrictions set forth in the Tennessee Supreme Court's March 26, 2020 order until the Chief Justice has approved a written plan for the Thirtieth Judicial District and gradually begin conducting in-person court proceedings in some non-emergency matters.

Judges and Magistrates will ensure that core constitutional functions and rights are protected. Additionally, the Juvenile Court Clerk is charged with ensuring that court functions continue. The Court Clerk is to work cooperatively and at the direction of the presiding judge of each judicial district to fulfill the clerks' obligation to facilitate continuing court function. Nevertheless judges and court clerks will continue to minimize in-person contact by utilizing available technologies, including alternative means of filing, teleconferencing, email, and video conferencing.

Any Tennessee state or local rule, criminal or civil, that impedes this Court or court clerk's ability to utilize available technologies to limit in-person contact is suspended through Sunday, May 31, 2020.

The Judicial office and the court clerk's office may limit in-person contact with the public during the period of suspension, but must remain open for business. If it becomes necessary to restrict physical access to Judicial or the court clerk's offices during the period of suspension, these offices shall remain accessible by telephone, email and fax to the extent possible during regular hours. If available, drop boxes will be used for conventionally filed documents.

Deadlines set forth in court rules, statutes, ordinances, administrative rules, or otherwise that are set to expire during the period from Friday, March 13, 2020, through Sunday May 31, 2020, are hereby extended through Friday, June 5, 2020. This extension does not apply to deadlines set forth in the Tennessee Rules of Appellate Procedure or the Rules of the Tennessee Supreme Court, except as otherwise provided by the orders of this Court entered March 27, 2020 (Order Suspending Board of Professional Responsibility's Proceeding and Extending Deadlines) (Order Regarding Continuing Legal Education), March 31, 2020 (Order Clarifying the Extension of Deadlines), and April 2, 2020 (Order Temporarily Modifying Certain Provisions of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 7). This extension does not apply to deadlines set forth in pre-trial scheduling orders, but such deadlines remain subject to extension by the trial courts in their discretion. Statutes of limitations and statutes of repose that would otherwise expire during the period from Friday, March 13, 2020, through Sunday, May 31, 2020 are hereby extended through Friday, June 5, 2020. Deadlines, statutes of limitations, and statutes of reposes that are not set to expire during the prior from Friday, march 13, 2020 through Sunday May 31, 2020 are not extended or tolled by this order.

Attorneys are encouraged to utilize the "Online Notary Public Act," and the regulations promulgated by the Secretary of State. Additionally, Executive Order No. 26 issued by Governor Lee on April 9, 2020 addresses notary issues. With regard to court filings, declarations under penalty of perjury may be issued as an alternative to a notary. The use of electronic signatures as provided under Rule 5B of the Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure and Rules of 46 and 46A of the Tennessee Supreme Court is extended to any pleadings or documents to be filed or served by conventional means during the time that the state of emergency for the Judicial Branch remains in place.

Orders of protection and temporary injunctions that would otherwise expire during the period from Friday March 13, 2020 through Sunday May 31, 2020 are hereby extended through Friday June 5, 2020.

Under the terms of this order, the Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County remains open, consistent with the Judicial Branch's obligation to mitigate the risk associated with COVID-19. The Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County will work with local law enforcement and other county officials to ensure that, to the extent possible, the courthouse remains accessible to carry out essential constitutional functions and time-sensitive proceedings.

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

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED.

This 27th day of April, 2020

Judge Dan H. Michael
Juvenile Court Judge

dbk/DHM