

## COVID-19 RELEASE

March 24, 2020

The Shelby County Common Pleas Court is doing the best to limit traffic in to the courthouse and still continue to do the business of the court during the COVID-19 pandemic. All persons entering the courthouse will be stopped at security and asked the purpose for coming to the courthouse. Anyone without official business will be turned away. If a person does have a purpose to be in the courthouse, security will contact the appropriate office to confirm that person actually has to be there. Security will then determine whether to let the person go further or whether someone from the office can come to security to address the person's need. If a person appears ill they will not be allowed in the courthouse; warning signs are posted at the entrance directing persons that are ill to not even enter the building.

The court will continue to do business although procedures will change. The goal is to minimize traffic in to the courthouse and avoid person to person contact. The following procedures are effective immediately subject to change as we review from day to day.

Because of e-filing much of the court's business can be done electronically. Pleadings can be filed, decision can be made and orders issued.

### Civil Cases:

All trials, whether trials to court or to jury scheduled for March and April are continued. The court will issue continuance orders and file the continuance in each individual case file. Those matters will be re-scheduled after we have a chance to evaluate the ongoing progress of the pandemic.

The court will conduct business that can be done by telephone or other electronic media. Scheduling conferences, pretrials, summary judgment motions and other orders that do not need live testimony, etc. will be conducted.

Attorneys are encouraged to contact the court with questions and provide suggested solutions to conduct business on any particular case.

The goal of the court is to continue operations in a manner that gets the work done without live appearances in court. If it can be done by video conference or by telephone that will be attempted.

#### Criminal Cases:

Much of the criminal case load is handled by the prosecutor and the public defender. The court has met with these individuals and are working out procedure to handle criminal cases along the same guidelines to minimize person to person contact and conduct business electronically. Pretrial conferences and status conferences will be conducted by telephone or videoconference.

#### Domestic Relations:

Domestic relations cases will be handled in a manner similar to other civil proceedings. Contested proceedings for March and April will be continued. Matters that can be handled electronically will proceed. Attorneys, or unrepresented parties should contact the domestic relations staff to discuss how to proceed.

Anything that can be e-filed must be e-filed. Any document that cannot be e-filed should be mailed to the Clerk by U.S. Post. If you have questions about filing you may phone the Clerk's office at #937-498-7221.