

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
FIFTH CHANCERY COURT DISTRICT



ATTEST A TRUE COPY
FILED

JAN 18 2021

EDDIE JEAN CARR, CHANCERY CLERK
BY [Signature] D.C.

No. _____

**IN RE: EMERGENCY ORDER RELATED TO
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

AMENDED EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

COVID-19 continues to present a public health threat. In compliance with the Constitution, Hinds County Court remains open for business to ensure courts fulfill their constitutional and statutory duties. See Miss. Const. Art. 3, §§ 24, 25, 26, and 26A. Mindful of the Court's duty to ensure the "just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of every action and proceeding" as well as its duty to protect parties, court staff, witnesses, and practitioners who appear before it and the community in which it sits, the Fifth Chancery Court District is utilizing video conferencing when possible. The Court will notify attorneys and/or parties for all set matters where telephone conferencing or video conferencing via Zoom or Lifesize may be utilized.

For any in person hearings and/or trials, the following steps shall be taken to minimize risk to all persons using the chancery courthouse:

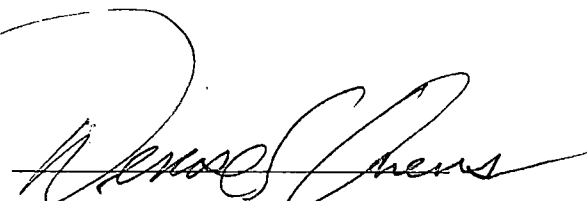
1. Upon entry into the Hinds County Chancery Court Building, each individual appearing for court must:
 - a) Wear a mask and/or some form of face covering;
 - b) Submit to having a temperature check;
 - c) Be appropriately dressed for court;
 - d) Be listed as an attorney, party or witness in a scheduled matter; and
 - e) Sign in.

Should anyone fail to submit to any item above, he or she will not be permitted to enter the elevator or staircase that leads to the third floor.


2. Each person is required to use hand sanitizer prior to entering the courtroom.
3. For in person proceedings, only necessary persons will be permitted into the courtrooms. **Parties that plan to call witnesses must submit a witness list to the appropriate court administrator at least 24 hours in advance so the names can be added to security's list on the first floor.** Courtroom proceedings will be limited to attorneys, parties, court staff, and witnesses unless prior authorization is obtained from the judge before the court proceeding.
4. Attorneys shall only enter the courtroom with their respective clients. Neither attorneys, nor their clients, or witnesses, will be permitted to "wait" in the courtroom.
5. **Social distancing will be practiced in all courtrooms**, i.e. all persons shall remain six (6) feet apart in distance from another person. Attorneys should stand in front of the microphones at counsel table to address the court and will not be permitted to walk freely about the courtroom.
6. Attorneys and self-represented litigants may bring a cellular telephone into the courtroom during a court proceeding to contact potential witnesses, if necessary. The courtroom bailiffs shall retain the cellular telephones of all self-represented litigants until such time the telephone is needed or until the court proceeding is concluded.
7. **The office of the court administrator is not open for in person business.** All court proceedings shall be scheduled with the court administrators via telephone or email regardless of whether the parties are present in the courthouse. For cases assigned to Judge Owens and Judge Thomas, contact Tonya W. Anderson at tanderson@co.hinds.ms.us or by telephone at 601.714.6309. For cases assigned to Judge Wise Martin and Judge Grove, contact D. LaShae Gilmore at dgilmore@co.hinds.ms.us or by telephone at 601.968.6521.
8. Any attorney or party shall promptly notify the Court and opposing counsel, if such party or attorney reasonably suspects that a party, attorney, witness or other case participant scheduled to appear before the Court, or that has recently appeared before the Court, has been in contact within the past 14 days with an individual who has COVID-19.

It is the judiciary's responsibility to ensure constitutional rights are protected in a manner consistent with the general welfare and health of the citizens of this State. This order may be amended, extended, or otherwise modified as circumstances dictate.

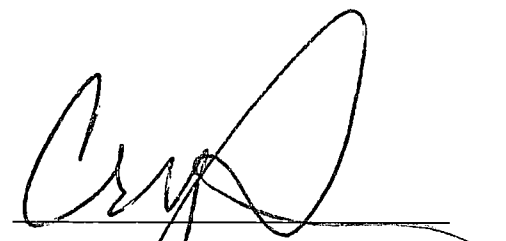
SO ORDERED.



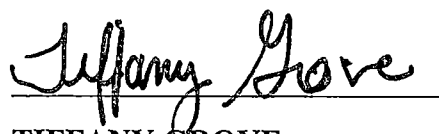
DENISE S. OWENS
SENIOR CHANCELLOR



DEWAYNE THOMAS
CHANCELLOR



CRYSTAL WISE MARTIN
CHANCELLOR



TIFFANY GROVE
CHANCELLOR