

22<sup>ND</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY

PARISH OF WASHINGTON

SECOND AMENDMENT TO COURT'S ORDER OF MARCH 13, 2020  
RE: CORONAVIRUS

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Acting under the authority of Article V, Section 1 of the Constitution of 1974, and the inherent power of this Court, and considering the recent outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Louisiana; Governor John Bel Edwards' declaration of a public health emergency in Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020; President Donald Trump's declaration of a national emergency on March 13, 2020; this Court's previous Orders of March 13, 2020; and in consideration of public health recommendations to reduce the risk of exposure to the virus and slow the spread of the disease while balancing the need to maintain access to Louisiana courts,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. All jury trials, both civil and criminal, scheduled to commence March 16, 2020 through May 15, 2020 are hereby continued, and will be reset by this Court.
2. Except as otherwise provided herein, all civil and criminal non-jury trials, Traffic Court, Misdemeanor Court, civil and criminal hearings, civil and criminal court appearances and criminal arraignments, pretrial conferences, sentencing hearings and revocations set for any date between March 16, 2020 through May 1, 2020 are hereby continued, and will be reset by this Court, **except** for hearings related to the following emergency matters:
  - A. Civil protective orders;
  - B. Child in Need of Care proceedings;
  - C. Emergency child custody matters, including La. C.C.P. art. 3945 matters. These matters will be conducted remotely;
  - D. Proceedings for children removed from their home by emergency court order;
  - E. Family Court Division "K" and Division "L" hearing officer conferences, which will be conducted remotely;
  - F. Proceedings related to emergency interdictions and mental health orders,
  - G. 72 hour hearings and continued custody proceedings; and
  - H. Any other matter considered an emergency by the Court.
3. The following orders are to apply specifically to matters set in Juvenile Court:
  - A. Adoptions currently set for final decree will be conducted remotely. No personal appearances will be made by witnesses, attorneys, or parties;
  - B. Delinquency cases will be continued and reset, except for continued custody hearings or other cases involving children detained or at immediate risk as determined by the Court. Such cases are to be held by remote appearance, to the greatest extent feasible;
  - C. Child In Need of Care cases will be continued and reset, except when a child has been removed or is at immediate risk as determined by the Court. Such cases are to be held by remote appearance, to the greatest extent feasible; and
  - D. Family Preservation Court will be conducted remotely. No personal appearances by witnesses, attorneys, or parties will take place.
4. All support enforcement matters set for any date between March 16, 2020 through May 1, 2020 are hereby continued and will be reset by this Court. In the interim, if any parties or attorneys consent to waiving their appearance and having their support matter heard by available technology, they are to contact the support enforcement division of the District Attorney's office at (985) 809-8380.
5. All Bond Court matters set for any date between March 16, 2020 through May 1, 2020 are hereby continued, and will be reset by this Court.

6. Only parties, attorneys and essential witnesses will be allowed to attend court proceedings in person, and only when absolutely necessary. With the exception of juvenile matters, no children will be allowed at Court without a Court order.
7. This Order expressly does not prohibit any court proceedings by telephone, video, teleconferencing, or any other means that do not involve in-person contact. This Order does not affect the Court's consideration of matters that can be resolved without in-person proceedings.
8. The Louisiana Supreme Court ordered on March 16, 2020, that given the public health concerns and the necessity of taking action to slow the spread of the disease, the continuances occasioned by this Order serve the ends of justice and outweigh the best interest of the public and the defendant in a speedy trial. The Louisiana Supreme Court further ordered on March 16, 2020, that the time periods of such continuances shall be excluded from speedy trial computations pursuant to law including, but not limited to, those set forth in the Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure and the Louisiana Children's Code, and presumptively constitute just cause.

The Court may issue further Orders regarding this matter as necessary to address the circumstances arising from this pandemic and will post such Orders on the Court's website at [22<sup>nd</sup>jdc.org](http://22ndjdc.org); the Louisiana Supreme Court's website at [www.lasc.org](http://www.lasc.org), and in the news media.

Covington, Louisiana, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

**FOR THE COURT:**



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**HON. DAWN AMACKER  
CHIEF JUDGE**