

22ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY

PARISH OF WASHINGTON

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

Acting under the authority of Article V, Section 1 of 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, the Louisiana Supreme Court's Order of April 6, 2020, this Court's previous Orders of March 13, 2020, March 17, 2020 and March 20, 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;

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Supreme Court has ordered that, until May 1, 2020, courts may only conduct in-person proceedings to address emergency matters that cannot be resolved virtually; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Supreme Court has further ordered that courts must continue to take measures to limit access to courtrooms and other spaces, with absolute minimum physical contact, to practice social distancing and limit in-person access to the maximum number of people set forth in local, state and national guidelines;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that emergency matters scheduled for hearing on April 13, 2020 through May 1, 2020, are to proceed remotely to the extent possible. The means of proceeding on the hearing, any conditions set for the hearing, and the scheduling of the remote hearing are to be determined by the Judge, Commissioner, or Hearing Officer who is assigned to conduct the hearing, and are to be communicated by them to the participants in advance of the hearing.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that only the parties and their attorneys shall participate in the remote hearings on emergency matters unless the Judge, Commissioner, or Hearing Officer who is assigned to conduct the hearing allows appearance by a party deemed to be a necessary witness. All participants in a remote video conference shall be properly attired according to court rules. Neither the parties, their attorneys, nor their agents or assigns, are to record by any means any part of the remote proceeding. A violation of these Court orders shall be considered grounds for a finding of contempt of court.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that emergency matters which must be conducted by in-person appearance as determined by the Court, which are currently set April 13, 2020 through May 1, 2020, are continued, and are to be reset by the Court for a date after May 1, 2020.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that any and all preliminary or permanent injunctions, protective orders, temporary restraining orders, ex parte protective orders and/or criminal stay away orders issued pursuant to R.S. 9:361 et seq., R.S. 9:372, R.S. 46:1846, R.S. 46:2131 et seq., R.S. 46:2151, R.S. 46: 2171 et seq., R.S. 46:2181 et seq., Children's Code art. 1564 et seq., Code of Civil Procedure articles 3604 and/or 3607.1 and/or Code of Criminal Procedure articles 30, 320 and/or 871.1 which have been issued by this court and which would expire on or between the dates of March 13, 2020 and May 1, 2020 are hereby extended until the emergency matter is heard and an order is issued in connection therewith.

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 22ndjdc.org; the Louisiana Supreme Court's website at www.lasc.org, and in the news media.

Covington, Louisiana, this 9th day of April, 2020.

FOR THE COURT:



**HON. DAWN AMACKER
CHIEF JUDGE**