

STATE OF LOUISIANA  
PARISH OF RAPIDES  
NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

**RE: COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE  
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES  
CREATED BY COVID-19  
(CORONAVIRUS)**

**ORDER**

Acting under the authority of Article V, Section 1 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974; and in accordance with the Orders of the Louisiana Supreme Court dated March 16, 2020 and March 20, 2020, and the inherent powers of this Court, and the need to amend the order of this Court dated March 16, 2020, the Chief Judge, acting on behalf of the Judges of the 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, and given the risk posed to the public and in consideration of the public health recommendations:

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that:

The 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court along with the Rapides Parish Clerk of Court will be open from 8:30 a.m. through Noon, Monday through Friday, effective Monday, April 6, 2020, until further orders of this Court;

Judges will continue to hear emergency and/or time sensitive matters in civil, criminal, and juvenile cases as determined by law or the presiding judge;

Any civil, criminal or juvenile hearing shall be conducted with the use of video conference, unless otherwise ordered by the presiding judge;

The delays in all criminal cases created by this Order shall constitute 'just cause', pursuant to La. Code of Criminal Procedure Article 701;

All civil and criminal trials, hearings, and court appearances are continued until after April 30, 2020, except proceedings for civil protective orders, emergency child custody pursuant to La. Code of Civil Procedure Article 3945, emergency interdictions, and matters of public health related to COVID19, or any other matter as ordered by the presiding judge;

All juvenile matters are continued until after April 30, 2020, except proceedings for juveniles who have been arrested and are being held in juvenile detention, and proceedings for children who have been removed from their homes by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), and proceedings for Child in Need of Care (CINC) that are required to be in compliance with federal and/or state regulations and guidelines, or any other matter as ordered by the presiding judge;

All drug court and behavior health court matters are continued until further notice, unless otherwise directed by the presiding judge;

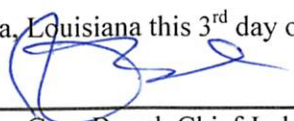
Any civil, criminal or juvenile matter can be resolved without a hearing or with the use of video and/or telephone conference, at the direction of the presiding judge.

This Order does not prohibit any court proceedings by use of video, telephone, or teleconferencing, or any other means that does not involve in-person contact.

This Order does not affect the Court's consideration of any matter that can be resolved without in-person proceedings.

The Court may issue further Orders as necessary to address the circumstances arising from this pandemic and will post such Orders on the Court's website, [www.9thjdc.org](http://www.9thjdc.org), the Louisiana Supreme Court website, [www.lasc.org](http://www.lasc.org), and in the news media.

Alexandria, Louisiana this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2020.

  
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Greg Beard, Chief Judge