

**9TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
PARISH OF RAPIDES
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

**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 April 29, 2020 and the inherent powers of this Court, the Chief Judge, acting on behalf of the Judges of the 9th Judicial District Court, and in consideration of the public health recommendations to reduce the risk of exposure to the virus and to slow the spread of the disease while balancing the need to maintain access to Louisiana courts:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

All provisions of the April 3, 2020 Order of this Court shall remain in place through May 15, 2020, except as expressly modified herein;

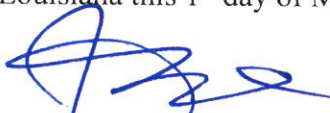
No civil or criminal jury trials may commence prior to June 30, 2020;

Every recording that was recorded during the Orders of this Court concerning COVID-19 shall be the official transcript and minute entry;

Any matter (civil, criminal, or juvenile) which is scheduled through May 15, 2020, may proceed remotely through virtual hearings, video, telephone, or teleconferencing, or any other means that does not involve in-person contact, to the extent possible, at the discretion of the presiding Judge. The consent for remote proceedings shall not be unreasonably withheld by any party. The means of proceeding on the hearing, any conditions set for the hearing, and the scheduling of the virtual hearing are to be determined by the Judge 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. Furthermore, only the parties and their attorneys shall participate in the remote hearings on emergency matters unless the Judge or Hearing Officer who is assigned to conduct the hearing allows appearance by a party deemed to be necessary. All participants in a remote video conference shall be properly attired according to court rules. No party, attorney, or their agents or assigns, are to record any part of the remote proceedings by any means. A violation of these Court orders shall be considered grounds for a finding of contempt of court;

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, www.9thjdc.org, the Louisiana Supreme Court website, www.lasc.org, and in the news media.

Alexandria, Louisiana this 1st day of May, 2020.



Greg Beard, Chief Judge