

JUL 01 2020

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA

JODY L. WISE  
CIRCUIT CLERK

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

JULY 1, 2020

President Donald J. Trump and Governor Kay Ivey have declared a public health emergency in response to the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19. Also, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health authorities have advised taking precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the virus and slow the spread of the disease. In Baldwin County, during the month of June, the number of cases has increased in excess of 100% (June 1<sup>st</sup> 292 positive cases to June 30<sup>th</sup> 663 positive cases). Additionally, depending on the size of the Courtroom, it is difficult (if not impossible) to keep 6 feet apart and conduct court business.

Therefore, in order to protect the public health, all persons, including but not limited to:

Court employees; visitors and parties to cases; witnesses; attorneys and their support staff including Baldwin County Assistant District Attorneys; members of Baldwin County Indigent Defense Contract holders; State Pardon and Parole Officers; Court Security Officers; all members of law enforcement; Baldwin County Clerk's Office employees; County maintenance and repair personnel; cleaning personnel and services, vendors and mail delivery service persons.

Shall, starting July 6, 2020, wear a mask while in public spaces at the Baldwin County Courthouses, including the satellite Courthouses in Foley and Fairhope. This requirement includes all public access areas in each Courthouse. Judges and their staff may remove their masks if they are in chambers and their offices; the Baldwin County District Attorney and his Assistants and staff may remove their masks while in their offices; The Baldwin County Clerk and her staff may remove their masks while in their offices; and all persons behind plexiglass, glass, plastic or shields may (at their option) remove their masks. Attorneys may lower their masks to make arguments, object to evidence, make opening or closing arguments, question witnesses or


other necessary functions of litigation, provided they are maintaining social distance (at least 6 feet) from all other parties in the Courtroom. Attorneys should continue to wear masks when talking with their clients, witnesses, and other attorneys when they are within 6 feet of that other person. Each judge will determine whether an exception exists for their court reporter and staff, while in court, as they will not be speaking and will likely be socially distanced from the public during proceedings.

Medical exceptions will be handled on a case by case basis.

All attorneys are encouraged to conduct as much court business as possible by paperwork, and virtual hearings should be requested in all matters where practicable.

These restrictions and requirements shall remain in place until the Court determines they can safely be discontinued.

DONE and Ordered this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July 2020.



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J. Clark Stankoski, Presiding Circuit Judge  
28<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Baldwin County, Alabama