

IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE CITY OF HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI

EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

COMES NOW, sua sponte, the Municipal Court of the City of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and in response to the continued spread of the Covid-19/Coronavirus, makes the following findings and enters the following Emergency Administrative Order regarding the operation of the court:

1. The City of Hattiesburg Municipal Court has been closely monitoring the situation regarding Covid-19/Coronavirus, and the recommendations made by the Centers for Disease Control as well as the Mississippi Department of Health, and the Emergency Administrative Orders entered by the Mississippi Supreme Court on March 13 and 15, 2020.
2. While following said recommendations, the Court recognizes the importance of fulfilling its statutory duty to remain open, to continue to provide services and a functioning court for the public.
3. In trying to balance the needs to keep the court open and functioning while still protecting the public from the continued spread of this virus, the Court has decided to continue all cases on its dockets scheduled for the weeks of March 16, 2020, to March 20, 2020, and all cases on its dockets scheduled for the weeks of March 23, 2020, to March 27, 2020. This is to include all previously scheduled plea days, trial days, DUI days, and all other dockets, subject to this Order.
4. That the Court shall at all times remain open to the public, to allow for the filing of motions, charges, the seeking of Domestic Abuse Protection Orders, the payment of fines and costs, or other court business. While the Court will to remain open for these purposes, all people appearing at the Court will be asked the following:

- Have you been to China, South Korea, Italy or Iran in the previous 60 days, or resided with someone who has been to any of these countries in that time.
- Have you travelled domestically within the United States to any state where Covid-19 has sustained widespread community transmission.
- Have you been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital or health agency.
- Have you been diagnosed with and/or had contact with anyone diagnosed with Covid-19.
- Do you have a fever, cough, or shortness of breath.

Any party who answers yes to any of the following should conduct their business via telephone, 601-545-4938, or via email municipalcourt@hattiesburgms.com. In addition, any and all people at the Court will be expected to practice responsible social distancing.

5. All Defendants scheduled for court cases set upon the two continued weeks of Court are instructed to contact the Court via telephone 601-545-4938, or via email municipalcourt@hattiesburgms.com, to find out when their case is being rescheduled. All attorneys are noticed they are to contact the Court as soon as possible to get their cases reset to mutually agreeable dates, and any cases not so reset within a reasonable amount of time will be reset by Court order.
6. All Defendants wishing to plead guilty to traffic cases are notified they may do so by telephone call to the Court or by email, with said communication accompanied with necessary identification and payment in full for fines and costs. A guilty plea form may be found on the Court's website.
7. That all participants in Behavioral Health Court are ordered to continue treatment with their mental health care provider as ordered, and to remain in compliance with same. They are further ordered to contact Court to follow up on their need to report to Behavioral Health Court.
8. That all first appearance/jail dockets will be conducted using the audiovisual teleconference system, and will continue to occur as required by the Mississippi Rules of

Criminal Procedure. These dockets will be held on Mondays at 2:30, Wednesdays at 2:30 and Fridays at 1:30 in accordance with the Agreed Order entered into between Justice Court and Petal Municipal Court. No public viewing will be allowed during the hearing in accordance with the Restrictions section set out above; this shall apply to both courtrooms, Court and Jail. Weekend dockets will continue as scheduled, but they too shall take place via audiovisual teleconference.

9. The Court hereby finds that good cause exists to continue all Preliminary Hearings on felony charges for the next two weeks from the date of this Order.
10. That at no time does this Order limit the Court from making exceptions in certain situations, and from conducting a hearing or trial if it can be conducted without endangering the public or by using audiovisual teleconference means in a way allowed by all applicable Mississippi Rules of Court and governing Orders issued by the Mississippi Supreme Court.
11. That all Defendants previously sentenced to Community Service are ordered not to report for the two-week continuance, and ordered to contact the Court's community service coordinator to reschedule their service.
12. The Court will continue to review and monitor the situation and make more Orders as needed.

So ordered, this the 16th day of March, 2020.


Wes Curry, Municipal Court Judge

