

## NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BAR

FROM: All judges of the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
RE: Violation of COVID-19 Protocols  
DATE: November 25, 2020

On October 8, 2020, the judges of this district sent out a memo reminding the Bar of the CDC guidelines and local health department guidance regarding quarantining. On November 17, 2020, the Supreme Court issued an Order Extending State of Emergency and Suspending Jury Trials. Pursuant to that Order, judges and attorneys have an ethical obligation to strictly adhere to the approved comprehensive written plans of judicial districts and to the provisions of all applicable orders related to COVID-19.

Effective immediately, before any individual, including attorneys, litigants or any other person seeking access, enters the Montgomery County Courts Center, that individual should engage in the following self-screening questions:

1. Have you been told to quarantine/isolate by a medical provider or health department?
2. Are you currently awaiting COVID-19 test results?
3. Have you had close contact with someone who has COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
4. Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing which is new or not explained by a pre-existing condition?
5. In the last 48 hours, have you had at least two of the following symptoms which is new or not explained by a pre-existing condition: fever, chills, repeated shaking chills, fatigue, muscle pain, body aches, headache, sore throat, nasal congestion or runny nose, vomiting, diarrhea, or loss of taste or smell?
6. Was your temperature 100.4 or above just prior to taking this self-screening?

If the answer is “yes” to ANY of these questions, the individual may not enter the Courts Center.

**The judges of the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District intend to enforce this and all previous COVID-19 related orders. To that end, if you, or a litigant or witness for which you are responsible, are found to have willfully violated the provisions of this or any other COVID-19 related order, you may be charged with contempt of court and be subject to punishment under the law. Attorneys found to have violated this, or any other COVID-19 related order, may also be subject to being reported the Board of Professional Responsibility.**