

# IN THE GENERAL SESSIONS, CIVIL AND JUVENILE COURTS FOR CLAIBORNE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

## ORDER OF COURT PROCEEDINGS FROM MARCH 13, 2020, THROUGH MARCH 31, 2020

Pursuant to Order of Supreme Court of Tennessee No. ADM2020-00428 IN RE: COVID-19 PANDEMIC the following Procedures will be implemented General Sessions Criminal, Civil and Juvenile Courts March 13, 2020 through March 31, 2020.

- Wednesday, March 18, 2020 – Interchange Court cases with Judge Wolfenbarger will be rescheduled to a future Interchange date.
- Monday, March 23, 2020 and Monday, March 30, 2020 – Sessions, Civil and Traffic Court cases will be rescheduled.
- Tuesday, March 24, 2020 and Thursday, March 26, 2020 – Sessions Criminal Court will be in session at normal time of 9:00 A.M.

Specifically, only proceedings necessary to protect constitutional rights of criminal defendants, including bond-related matters and plea agreements of incarcerated individuals will be addressed. The general public will NOT be allowed in the courtroom. Only attorneys, court officers, clerks, incarcerated defendants and any necessary witnesses will be allowed in the courtroom as necessary. The witnesses will remain in their vehicles or outside of the Justice Center until they are called into the courtroom for the hearing. The attorneys shall make such arrangements with the witnesses so they can be notified by cell phone or other means available when needed while they wait outside the Justice Center.

Additionally the Supreme Court Order directs that the court is to conduct any proceedings related to relief from abuse, including but not limited to Orders of Protection. The parties will be directed to remain in their vehicles or outside of the Justice Center until they are called into the courtroom for the hearing vocally, by cell phone or other means available.

- Wednesday, March 25, 2020 – Juvenile Court will be in session at normal time of 9:00 A.M.

**FILED**  
Claiborne County General Sessions Court

**MAR 16 2020**

Jackie Rosenbalm Clerk  
*JR* DC

Specifically, proceedings involving delinquency, truancy, youth access to tobacco, traffic violations and arraignments will be rescheduled.

Only cases involving emergency child custody orders, preliminary hearings, emergency matters related to child protection and temporary injunctive relief will be addressed.

The clerk, attorneys and court officers will be allowed in the courtroom during the entire day or proceedings. All other individuals, including children, parents, witnesses, victims, DCS workers, and school personnel will remain outside of the Justice Center or in their vehicles until the specific case in which they are needed is called for hearing. They will then be notified to enter the courtroom vocally, by cell phone or other means available. The attorneys are responsible to know the cell phone numbers to contact such persons when required.

All individuals are directed that if they exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19 a/k/a CORONA VIRUS or are knowingly exposed to someone with the COVID-19 a/k/a CORONA VIRUS they SHALL NOT appear at the Justice Center on any of these court dates. Such persons are directed to notify the Clerk's Office by telephone (423-626-3334) before the scheduled court hearing and their case will be rescheduled.

Furthermore the Supreme Court Order allows proceedings by telephone, video, teleconferencing, email or other means that do not involve in-person contact. Therefore attorneys shall be allowed to have their clients, witnesses, parties or other individuals participate by said means. However said attorney must make the arrangements and supply the means to accomplish this process.

The overall goal of this order is to continue the business of the court while limiting in-person contact as much as possible.

This is an unprecedented situation we are experiencing and extraordinary methods and responses must be implemented. However, this order is subject to modification as these matters proceed and any suggestions for better procedures will be welcomed.

It is so ORDERED.

ENTER ED this the 16 day of March, 2020.



*Robert M. Estep, General Sessions, Civil and Juvenile Court Judge*