

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF RANKIN COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

MEMORANDUM

TO: RCBA, CABA, All counsel who practice in this court
FM: County Judge Kent McDaniel
RE: Temporary Measures Pursuant to Supreme Court Orders
DT: March 17, 2020

During these extraordinary times, this court will be required to amend several standard practices to which all of us have become accustomed. Pursuant to the most recent Order from the Mississippi Supreme Court, and until further notice or May 18, 2020, whichever comes first, this court will observe the following changes in its usual procedures:

1. All felony criminal matters such as initial appearances, preliminary hearings, bond review hearings, or other pre-trial hearings will be conducted without public attendance except in special circumstances with the prior permission of the court. Prosecutor(s) and Public Defenders or private counsel will be encouraged to attend. Notice of the date/time for these will be published by the administrator to those on the normal distribution. Anyone who wishes to be added to such notices is invited to contact Administrator Anita Jeffress at 601.824.2403 or ajeffress@rankincounty.org.
2. All civil trials, trials of appealed cases, and any hearing requiring the summoning of witnesses will be discontinued until further order of the court. Any other type of hearing which needs to be heard for argument only before the court may be allowed by the court with only the attorneys and one client representative in the courtroom.
3. All “paper-only” dispositions or routine *ex parte* matters, such as requests for Default Judgment, Agreed Judgment, Judgment on the Pleadings and similar situations will be handled promptly, preferably without any need to appear in court for any supporting issue. Do it in MEC.
4. For Summary Judgments, a hearing must be set for a date/time certain with notice to any/all opponent(s). As has always been the practice in this court, no live testimony is allowed.
5. All contested hearings which may be heard by telephone conference or video teleconferencing will be entertained with the agreement of all participants and receipt of a firm date/time reserved with the Administrator.
6. Any extraordinary relief needed to any of these procedures should be addressed to the Administrator or the Judge with all parties participating.

THANK YOU!