

IN THE GULFPORT MUNICIPAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF HARRISON COUNTY
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

This Administrative Order is being issued in response to the recent outbreak of “coronavirus” (COVID-19) in the United States and now in the State of Mississippi. On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency due to the outbreak of coronavirus. The Mississippi Supreme Court later issued an “Emergency Administrative Order” on March 13, 2020, in response and which has application to proceedings in the Gulfport Municipal Court. This Order states that while courts “will remain open for business to ensure courts fulfill their constitutional and statutory duties” and “should continue normal business matters as much as possible,” local judges are best suited to exercising discretionary authority concerning the administration of their dockets, including the scheduling of matters pending before them.

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that, effective at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 16, 2020:

1. All matters scheduled for an in-Court appearance before any Municipal Court Judge in the Gulfport Municipal Court shall be, and hereby are, CONTINUED, pending further Order of the Court;
2. This Order shall not restrict any Municipal Court Judge’s authority to conduct a case-by-case exception to the herein ordered continuances when reviewing or considering trials, after conferring with all parties or their counsel of record, if any;

3. This Order does not affect or impede any judge's consideration of motions that can be resolved by the Court, without oral argument or in court appearances, nor does this Order preclude telephonic conferences set by the Court to resolve Court matters; and

4. The Gulfport Municipal Court remains open, and staff in the Municipal Court Clerk's Office will be available as directed by its Court Administrator. Mail will be received and the Municipal Court Clerk's Office will remain open for filings or other submissions to the Court. The public is encouraged to continue utilizing the Municipal Court Clerk's Office so long as they follow the directives of the Court Administrator, as well as all applicable public health guidelines.

This Administrative Order shall become effective at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 16, 2020, and shall expire at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 27, 2020, unless extended or otherwise modified by a supplemental Order of this Court. Any section or part of this Order which conflicts with any applicable or governing Order of the Mississippi Supreme Court or state or federal law shall conform to such Order or law.

ORDERED, this the 14th day of March, 2020.


MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE


MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE

