



TWENTIETH CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT

Madison and Rankin Counties

JOHN H. EMFINGER
Circuit Judge

STEVE S. RATCLIFF
Circuit Judge

DEWEY K. ARTHUR
Circuit Judge

Pursuant to the Emergency Administrative Orders of the Mississippi Supreme Court we are reminded that "All courts shall be open...and justice shall be administered without sale, denial, or delay." Miss. Const. Art. 3 §24. However, due to the national and state emergencies caused by COVID-19, steps must be taken also to protect the health and safety of the citizens of this State involved in the court system. Accordingly, the Circuit Court of Rankin and Madison counties will remain open for business, but will take the following actions to protect the health and safety of the public:

1. The Circuit Court of Rankin and Madison Counties has issued orders continuing all criminal cases set for trial on April 20th. The orders also reset all deadlines associated with the criminal cases that have been continued. Please contact the appropriate court administrator to confirm whether any other criminal matter will proceed as scheduled. If your client has an agreement to plead guilty to a sentence that allows his/her release from custody immediately, please contact the Court.
2. Civil motions will be heard as presently scheduled unless you are advised otherwise by the court administrator. Circuit Judges may rule on motions set for hearing prior to the hearing date, may schedule a phone conference, may direct that the hearing be rescheduled or may have the hearing as scheduled.
3. No new summons will be issued for jurors to appear in Circuit Court prior to May 18, 2020. All jurors who have already received summons to appear prior to May 18th are hereby excused from appearing. Any matter requiring the appearance of more than 10 people will be set or continued to a date after May 18, 2020. If you have any question as to whether you should appear for a hearing, contact the court administrator.

Circuit Court will remain open for business. If you need assistance, please contact the court administrators by email at thall@rankincounty.org, natalie.kirby@madison-co.com, or bmoore@madison-co.com or by phone at 601-855-5555 for Madison County or 601-824-2427 for Rankin County. Please do not come to chambers without calling first.