

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY,
THE FIFTH CHANCERY COURT DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI

IN RE: THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

4/28/20 STATEMENT REGARDING COURT OPERATIONS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention determined that COVID-19 presents a serious public health threat. Consequently, the President of the United States declared a national emergency. The Governor of Mississippi declared a state of emergency. The Hinds County Board of Supervisors has declared a state of emergency. The Mississippi Supreme Court has issued various emergency administrative orders in response to the virus, which the Fifth Chancery Court District will adhere to.

In compliance with the Constitution, Hinds Chancery Court remains open for business to ensure courts fulfill their constitutional and statutory duties. See Miss. Const. Art. 3, §§ 24, 25, 26, and 26A. Mindful of the Court's duty to ensure the "just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of every action and proceeding" as well as its duty to protect parties, court staff, witnesses, corporate representatives, and practitioners who appear before it and the community in which it sits, the Fifth Chancery Court District is **continuing all trials requiring in person testimony through May 18, 2020, effective immediately**. The court will notify attorneys and/or parties for all set matters where video conferencing via Zoom may be utilized. Emergency matters will be heard as necessary and only necessary persons will be permitted in courtrooms. Ex parte matters will be handled via email, teleconference, and/or video conference (utilizing Zoom).

For more information or to re-set a matter, please contact the appropriate court administrator by email or telephone. The court administrators will have access to their voice mail and email during this time. For cases assigned to Judge Owens and Judge Thomas, contact Tonya W. Anderson at tanderson@co.hinds.ms.us or by telephone at 601.714.6309. For cases assigned to Judge Wise Martin and Judge Grove, contact D. LaShae Gilmore at dgilmore@co.hinds.ms.us or by telephone at 601.968.6521. For in person filings, please contact either one of the court administrators to make an appointment. The Court's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the information set forth above is subject to change.