

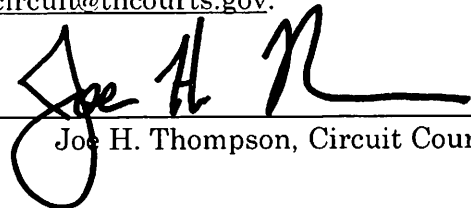
CIRCUIT COURT PROCEDURES EFFECTIVE MARCH 16-31, 2020

By order of the Tennessee Supreme Court, in-court proceedings in Tennessee courts have been suspended beginning March 16 through March 31, 2020 (“the Affected Period”). See *In re: Covid-19 Pandemic*, (Tenn. 3/13/2020) (“the Order”). I urge you to review a copy of this order carefully.

Effective immediately, the following procedures will be followed in the Circuit Court for Sumner County:

1. If a hearing has been scheduled during the Affected Period and falls within the list of exceptions identified in the Order, the hearing will occur as originally scheduled. Each party will be contacted – either through counsel or directly if *pro se* – at least 24 hours prior to the hearing date by Ms. Doyle to confirm attendance and address any relevant issues.
2. With respect to hearings scheduled during the Affected Period and NOT falling within the list of exceptions identified in the Order, the following will apply:
 - a. The court will identify hearings that require witness testimony and postpone those matters. Ms. Doyle will be in contact with you regarding the rescheduling of those dates.
 - b. All Rule 41 motions will be reset.
 - c. Matters not requiring testimony will be heard by telephone conference unless:
 - i. Both parties agree to continue the matter; or
 - ii. Both parties agree to have the matter decided upon written filings and without oral argument.
 - iii. Procedures for the telephone conference will be communicated to counsel 24 hours prior to the scheduled motion.

We will improvise and adapt as the circumstances of this fluid situation dictate. If you have any special concerns or suggestions, please feel free to contact my office directly at (615)452-6771 or by email at scheduling.sumner.circuit@tncourts.gov.



Joe H. Thompson, Circuit Court Judge