



CARR ALLISON

ALABAMA | FLORIDA | MISSISSIPPI | TENNESSEE

## **COVID-19 Court Status Updates**

For more COVID-19 resources, please visit our [Carr Allison Team and Resource Page](#)

# **ALABAMA**

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In the state court system, all in-person court proceedings are suspended through April 16, with the exception of jury trials in progress as of March 13 or other essential and emergency matters.

## **Northern District of Alabama**

- Anyone who has tested positive or has been exposed to the virus is prohibited from entering the courthouses.
- Anyone who has visited China, Italy, Japan, Iran or South Korea in the past two weeks is prohibited from entering the courthouses.

## **Middle District of Alabama**

- No jurors will be summoned for civil or criminal jury trials for 30 days (starting March 17).
- All jury trials, trial-specific deadlines and all grand jury proceedings scheduled within this period is postponed 30 days.
- Initial appearances, arraignments and detention hearings before the magistrate judges will continue remotely.
- Any proceeding that cannot be conducted remotely will be coordinated with the duty magistrate judge. Case-by-case exceptions may be ordered for nonjury matters at the discretion of the court.
- Anyone who has tested positive or has been exposed to the virus is prohibited from entering the courthouses.
- Anyone who has visited China, Italy, Japan, Iran or South Korea in the past two weeks is prohibited from entering the courthouses.

## **Southern District of Alabama**

- Anyone who has tested positive or has been exposed to the virus is prohibited from entering the courthouses.
- Anyone who has visited China, Italy, Japan, Iran or South Korea in the past two weeks is prohibited from entering the courthouses.

# FLORIDA

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Florida Supreme Court ruled that all grand jury proceedings, jury selection proceedings, and criminal and civil jury trials are suspended through April 17. Proceedings that have already begun may continue if the presiding judge and chief judge determine it is required. All time periods involving the speedy trial procedure in criminal and juvenile court proceedings are suspended through April 20. The chief judges of each state Circuit Court were ordered to cancel or postpone non-essential court proceedings, unless the proceedings could be conducted remotely.

## Florida Southern District Court

- All jury trials scheduled to begin March 16 through March 30 are postponed until further notice.
- All trial-specific deadlines in criminal cases scheduled to begin before March 30 are also postponed.
- Court security officers are screening people who enter the federal courthouse and denying entry to anyone who has recently visited Italy, Iran, South Korea or China.
- Anyone who resides with or has had close contact with someone who has traveled to one of the above countries, has been asked to self-quarantine, tested positive or has had contact with someone who has tested positive will not be able to enter any federal courthouses in the district.

## Middle District of Florida

- Those with symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to coronavirus are prohibited from entering any courthouse.

# MISSISSIPPI

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In the state court system, courts are limiting in-person contact through remote proceedings. When remote proceedings are not possible, the court will conduct certain in-person proceedings. These cases include: Jury trials, emergency child protection matters, and other emergency and time-sensitive matters. Those who have tested positive for the coronavirus, have symptoms or may have been exposed to the virus are prohibited from entering state courts.

## North District of Mississippi

- All proceedings should be conducted remotely when possible.
- Petty offenses that address misdemeanor citations in April and May will be continued until June and July.
- March cases will be disposed of at the discretion of the presiding judge.
- Public access to courthouses is limited to essential business.

## Southern District of Mississippi

- All nonessential matters set for hearing or trial through March 31 are postponed until further notice.
- Those who have symptoms or have tested positive for coronavirus must notify the judge and counsel involved if they intend to come to court.

# Tennessee

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Tennessee's state and local courts have suspended in-person proceedings from March 13 through April 30. Some exceptions include:

- Bond-related matters for criminal defendants
- Plea agreements for incarcerated people
- Civil and criminal jury trials that are in progress as of March 23
- Proceedings related to relief from abuse
- Emergency child custody orders
- Petitions from temporary injunctive relief
- Emergency mental health orders
- Emergency protection of elderly or vulnerable people
- Proceedings related to COVID-19.

Deadlines including the statutes of limitations, orders of protection and temporary injunctions, that are set to expire between March 13 and May 5, are extended through May 6.

## Eastern District of Tennessee

- Civil and criminal jury trials set to begin on or before April 24 are postponed.
- Cases not scheduled for trial will proceed as scheduled, but oral proceedings will be conducted remotely when possible.
- Grand jury proceedings in Greeneville and Chattanooga are suspended through April 24.
- All misdemeanor, petty offenses and traffic dockets scheduled through April 24 are postponed.
- Tours and naturalization ceremonies are cancelled until further notice.

## Western District of Tennessee

- All civil judicial proceedings currently scheduled are postponed until after April 17.
- Criminal proceedings that do not require in-person appearances are also postponed until after April 17.
- Civil and criminal jury selections and trials scheduled to begin on or before April 17 are postponed until further notice.
- All grand juries already selected will not convene until after April 17.
- The federal courthouse is closed to the public until further notice.

## Middle District of Tennessee

- Civil and criminal jury selections that were scheduled to begin March 17 through March 30 are postponed.
- All grand jury proceedings scheduled to take place between March 17 and April 30.



For more information of court statuses you can visit: <https://www.law360.com/articles/1252836/coronavirus-the-latest-court-closures-and-restrictions>

If you have any questions regarding COVID-19 and your obligations as an employer, please do not hesitate to contact someone on our Carr Allison [COVID-19 Response Team](#).