



DAWN AMACKER  
DISTRICT JUDGE  
DIVISION "L"

TWENTY-SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT  
STATE OF LOUISIANA  
ST. TAMMANY PARISH JUSTICE CENTER  
701 NORTH COLUMBIA STREET, ROOM 3068  
COVINGTON, LOUISIANA 70433

ST. TAMMANY  
WASHINGTON  
PARISHES

March 20, 2020

Dear Members of the Bar:

I have attached for your information our latest Court order and two from the Louisiana Supreme Court. Ours is the fourth of a series of orders issued in the past two weeks, which set out the temporary changes in procedure in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Court which are necessary to protect the public and all of us who practice and work in the system. These orders also further our goal of continuing to provide emergency and essential services.

The process of shutting down so much of the court system, over two parishes, has been challenging. Having the fortunate circumstance of being able to work hand in glove with both Clerks of Court, the Parish Presidents, the District Attorney, the Public Defender, and, of course, with law enforcement throughout the district, has been such a gift.

The good news is, beginning next week, the judges, court administrators and our IT personnel will be able to redirect to develop the plan to bring the services of the court back. We meet or conference with stakeholders daily to devise a plan that will ultimately allow us to handle all hearings remotely except for those matters which by law require personal appearance. We know your clients need help and soon. We also realize that your livelihood and that of your employees depend on us bringing this system back as soon as possible, and that is also a priority going forward.

We are lucky to have some imaginative thinkers and tech-savvy people who have made arrangements to have many hearings done remotely. Already Judge Scott Gardner has been utilizing Zoom's technology to hold his remote hearings. Hearing Officer, Amanda Trosclair, is working on doing the same for Support Enforcement matters. Our civil hearing officers are holding all their conferences remotely by telephone and will be handling the emergency La. C.C.P. art. 3945 conferences remotely as well. None of these technologies require you or your clients to have any physical contact with court personnel or each other. As always, if you have good reason to continue any matters, you would need to file electronically the appropriate form required and the utmost consideration will be given to your request.

We will continue to update you. Please enjoy your weekend in peace. Of all the consequences of this disease, the worst is without a doubt being separated from family and friends. God willing it will not be long before you are reunited. Until then, we are still on the job, call me if you need me.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DA', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chief Judge Dawn Amacker