

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF CADDO
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

IN RE: COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES
CREATED BY COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)

ORDER

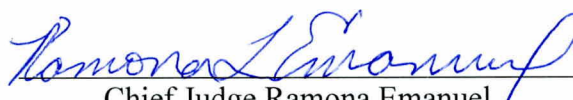
The judges of the First Judicial District Court, in light of the recent public health issues arising from the spread of COVID-19 throughout the state, staffing issues within the agencies necessary for the proper administration of justice and in recognition that there have been over one million reported COVID infections within the state of Louisiana, are issuing the following order to safeguard public health while respecting the rights of litigants and provide the greatest possible access to the courts during this event. The Governor has declared a public health emergency and the Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court has stated that “local courts will be responsible for evaluating and determining whether jury trials may be conducted safely within their jurisdictions, subject to any restrictions that might be in place at that time.”

Therefore, beginning January 10, 2022, continuing and lasting through and including March 1, 2022, the following orders are in place:

All jury trials are hereby continued, to be reset by order. The court finds that the delays created by the implementation of this order constitute “just cause” pursuant to the provisions of La. Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 701 for suspension of speedy trial delays and that the current health emergency constitute good grounds for continuance of matters under Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure Article 1601 as they pertain to statutory continuances for good cause therefor. Further, given the concerns of litigants, witnesses, and jurors, the court finds that the interests of justice warrant continuances in all matters not specifically excepted.

This order shall be posted on the website of the Clerk of Court and distributed to regional media outlets upon approval.

Signed this 21st day of January, 2022, in Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana.


Chief Judge Ramona Emanuel
On Behalf of the Court