

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BLOUNT COUNTY, TENNESSEE

*2020*  
**FILED**

**OCT 16 2020**

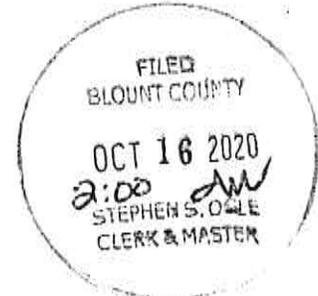
**TOM HATCHER**  
CIRCUIT COURT CLERK

IN RE: COVID-19 PANDEMIC

AND

NO. L-15864

IN RE: THE SCHEDULE OF THE BLOUNT  
COUNTY CIRCUIT, CHANCERY AND  
GENERAL SESSIONS COURTS, INCLUDING  
THE PROBATE AND JUVENILE COURTS



### AMENDED ORDER SUSPENDING IN-PERSON COURT PROCEEDINGS

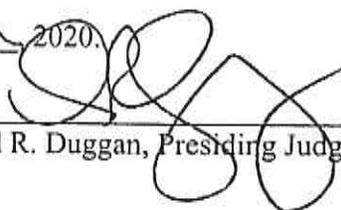
This Court's previous Order entered and filed March 14, 2020, as amended, is further amended as follows:

1. All chambers matters, for all courts, are suspended indefinitely. All matters that would ordinarily be handled in chambers must be dealt with by Zoom hearing or other electronic means, by telephonic hearing, or in the courtroom, effective immediately.
2. As has been previously ordered, all of the judges wish to emphasize that no attorney seeking to schedule a matter, or to otherwise contact a judge, should come to the Justice Center or Juvenile Court and seek to approach a judge or that judge's office. All communication should be by telephone or email.
3. Also effective immediately, before any individual, including attorneys, litigants, or any other person seeking access, enters the Justice Center or Juvenile Court, that individual should engage in the following self-screening questions:
  - a. Have you been told to quarantine/isolate by a medical provider or the health department?
  - b. Are you currently awaiting COVID-19 test results?
  - c. Excluding those individuals in an occupational setting wearing appropriate professional PPE, in the last 14 days, have you had close contact (i.e. less than 6 feet of physical distance) for 10 minutes or more with someone who has COVID-19?
  - d. Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing which is new or not explained by a pre-existing condition?
  - e. In the last 48 hours, have you had at least two of the following symptoms which is new or not explained by a pre-existing condition: fever, chills, repeated shaking chills, fatigue, muscle pain, body aches, headache, sore throat, nasal congestion or runny nose, vomiting, diarrhea, or loss of taste or smell?
  - f. Was your temperature 100.4 or above just prior to taking this self-screen?

4. If the answer is "yes" to *any* of the questions 3a-f, the individual may not enter the Justice Center or Juvenile Court until the individual has contacted his or her health provider and received clearance to work from that provider, and provided evidence of the clearance to an applicable court clerk.
5. If it becomes necessary for an attorney to stay out of the Justice Center or Juvenile Court due to an affirmative answer to any of the self-screening questions, that attorney will be granted an automatic continuance on any case for which the attorney cannot appear.

It is so Ordered this 16 day of October 2020.

ENTER:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David R. Duggan, Presiding Judge *Pro Tempore*