

**CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE PARISH OF ORLEANS  
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

**ORDER**

Acting in accordance with La. Const. Art. V, Sec. 1; pursuant to LSA R.S. 1:55; due to the COVID-19 emergency as detailed in Louisiana State Governor John Bel Edwards's Executive Department Proclamation Numbers 25 JBE 2020 Public Health Emergency – COVID-19 and 27 JBE 2020, the City of New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell's Mayoral Proclamation of a State of Emergency Due to COVID-19, the Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Bernette J. Johnson's letter dated March 12, 2020 to all Chief Judges and Criminal District Court's Deputy Chief Robin D. Pittman's letter dated March 13, 2020 in accordance with the inherent powers of this court, the Deputy Chief Judge, acting on behalf of the Judges of the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court,

**HEREBY ORDERS THAT:**

Due to the unprecedented pandemic as referenced in the above-captioned emergency declarations, and in accordance with the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court's Continuity of Operations Plan, the Criminal District Court adopts the following emergency plan, **which shall be effective from March 16, 2020 until April 10, 2020:**

That all criminal proceedings are suspended and Criminal District Court is closed for the duration of this order;

That all attorneys, defendants and witnesses with scheduled criminal proceedings and notices to appear from March 16, 2020 through April 10, 2020 shall appear between April 13, 2020 and April 17, 2020 for a subpoena for their new court date;

All jury trials are suspended for the duration of this order;

All jurors serving for the month of March are dismissed;

All jurors summoned for the month of April 2020 will be notified regarding reporting for jury service;

All first appearances will be held via audio and/or video conferencing;

For all other Magistrate Court matters, defendants will be notified and/or subpoenaed to appear for dates on or after April 13, 2020;

If the conditions indicate that the Court needs to adjust the above policy, notice will be posted to the Court's website ([www.criminalcourt.org](http://www.criminalcourt.org)), the Louisiana Supreme Court website ([www.lasc.org](http://www.lasc.org)) and in the news media.

New Orleans, Louisiana this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

Acting on behalf of the Court En Banc



---

ROBIN D. PITTMAN  
Deputy Chief Judge

**PLEASE SERVE VIA EMAIL:**

1. Appendix 1.7 of Criminal District Court's COOP – Disaster Declaration and Communication Procedures
2. Disaster Recovery Committee Criminal District Court's COOP – Disaster Declaration and Communication Procedures