

**STATE OF LOUISIANA
CITY and PARISH OF LAFAYETTE
CITY COURT OF LAFAYETTE**

**IN RE: EX PARTE MOTION AND ORDER OF THE COURT AMENDING
PREVIOUS "COVID-19" COURT ORDERS AND
RELATED PROCLAMATION 59 JBE 2020 AND PHASE ONE MATTERS**

ON EX-PARTE MOTION of Douglas J. Saloom and Francie Bouillion, Judges of the City Court of Lafayette, acting in accordance with La. Constitution Article V, Section 1 and the inherent power of this Court, and considering the Declaration of State of Emergency of the Louisiana Governor, encouragement of the Louisiana Supreme Court to implement social distancing strategies and the Lafayette Mayor-President's order to close all government buildings to the general public, and in an effort to slow and possibly prevent exposure of the COVID-19 virus:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the normal court operations of the Lafayette City Court will begin May 18, 2020, in a capacity as further decreed in this Order;

IN ACCORDANCE, IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT the court building will be open to the public during the business hours of 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and until close of court on Mondays or 5:00 p.m., whichever occurs first;

IN ADDITION, as of May 15, 2020, all juvenile, civil, criminal and traffic court settings, except civil trials, that were cancelled as of the COVID-19 closures have been rescheduled. **ALL COURT MATTERS, OTHER THAN EVICTIONS, THAT ARE RESCHEDULED FOR MONDAY JUNE 1, 2020 AND THEREAFTER, WILL REMAIN AS SCHEDULED AND YOU MUST APPEAR IN COURT AS SHOWN ON YOUR NOTICE.** As for evictions, in accordance with Executive Order 59 JBE 2020 and the corresponding Order of the Louisiana Supreme Court, **ALL EVICTION MATTERS THAT WERE RESCHEDULE FOR MAY 18, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 5, 2020 ARE CANCELLED AND WILL BE RESCHEDULE A SECOND TIME ONCE ALL STAY ORDERS EXPIRE. IT IS NOT NECESSARY THAT YOU APPEAR AT THE COURTHOUSE ON YOUR SCHEDULED EVICTION COURT DATE.**

NOTICE OF RESCHEDULING: Be advised that the Court has begun mailing notice of rescheduled court dates to all civil (except for evictions), criminal, traffic and juvenile parties. The notice will be sent to the last address that was provided by the party on file. It is the individual's responsibility to ensure that the Court has a current address. If your address has changed, you must provide the new address in writing to the Court by mail. The Court's mailing address is Post Office Box 3344, Lafayette, Louisiana 70502-3344. You must include your full name as it appears on the old notice, the docket number and the new address including city, state, and zip code. A warrant may be issued should the defendant not appear for their rescheduled court date.

People can check the Court's website at <https://www.citycourtlafayette.org/Home.aspx> to obtain more information, including updates from the Court, answers to frequently asked questions including checking for a newly rescheduled court date. The Judges remind people that many traffic tickets, and some previously resolved criminal matters can be paid online by credit card (processing fee applies). This includes partial payments for people that are paying fines over time. All traffic and criminal fines can also be paid by mail with certified funds or money order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT in cooperation with the requests of the Governor's Phase 1 plan, all persons entering the Lafayette City Court building and adjoining property shall adhere to the following rules:

- No person may enter the Lafayette City Court Building unless they are wearing an appropriate face mask which shall not be removed without permission of the Court. Entrants should provide their own mask. The Court has obtained a limited number of disposable masks that can be provided to those that cannot afford a mask. Again, that number is limited and may not be replenished once exhausted. Entrants will be escorted out of the building should they remove their mask. No socially inappropriate mask will be permitted. Obviously, appropriate attire is also required. Customary impermissible items remain prohibited;
- In compliance with the 25% rule, the capacity of the building will be limited to approximately 100 people. Therefore, entrance into the building will be limited in number and all entrants while in the building or waiting in line outside of the building, must abide by all rules and instructions including the six (6) foot social distance rule. Entrants should be prepared to wait in line both in the building and at the entrance. Refusal to abide by these instructions will result in removal from the building or the courthouse property by the Lafayette City Marshal. Entrant's removal could also result in a warrant being issued for failure to attend court sessions should circumstances, or continued refusal, so dictate;
- In addition, all persons entering the building will be required to have their temperature taken by the authorized personnel located at the front door. All entrants must truthfully answer the questions below. No person will be permitted into the building should they refuse to take temperature or truthfully answer any question or as a consequence of the answer to any question need further COVID-19 inquiry. The questions are as follows:
 - *Do you have any of the following?*
 - Fever or feeling feverish (chills, sweating);
 - Shortness of breath (not severe);
 - Cough.
 - *Are you ill, or caring for someone who is ill?*

- *In the two weeks before you felt sick, did you:*
 - Have contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19?
 - Live in or visit a place where COVID-19 is spreading?
- In addition, as the number of people entering the building is limited, only the person having business with the Court will be admitted into the building. No children are permitted. Limited exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Court; however, under no circumstance will more than one extra person be admitted.
- All people having court sessions with the Court will be checked in by court staff at the entrance of the building. When capacity is reached, entrants will be asked to provide cell phone numbers when checking in and then return to their automobiles. People will be contacted on their phone when it is their turn to be allowed in the building. Note, cell phones cannot be brought into the building. The Court intends to erect a small covered area that can be utilized by those that do not have an automobile. Seating is limited in that area.
- While in the building or waiting outside of the building, people must abide by all rules and instructions including the six (6) foot social distance rule. Entrants should be prepared to wait in line both in the building and at the entrance. Refusal to abide by these instructions will result in removal from the building or the courthouse property by the Lafayette City Marshal. Entrant's removal could also result in a warrant being issued for failure to attend court sessions should circumstances, or continued refusal, so dictate;

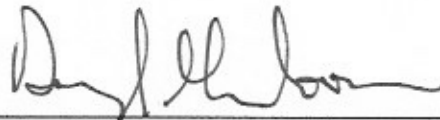
IT IS FURTHER ORDEDED THAT in accordance with Louisiana Code of Evidence Article 202 (A), the Judges hereby take judicial notice of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security ("CARES") Act signed March 27, 2020, PL 116-136 and the mandates set forth in Sections 4022, 4023 and 4024 of the Act. Accordingly:

- All litigants of an eviction proceeding filed after March 27, 2020, must ascertain whether the rental property in question falls within the CARES Act Moratorium. The moratorium could apply if the purchase of the rental property included the use of a federally subsidized mortgage or if the rent that is received or paid is federally subsidized.
- The Judges encourage landlords and tenants to review their rights by going to the Louisiana Fair Housing website, or other reputable sites that may be available online or through their private attorney. If you have questions concerning evictions and you cannot afford an attorney, you should contact the Acadiana Legal Services' office located in Lafayette.
- At all eviction hearings, the Judges will be inquiring from each litigant, under oath and threat of perjury, whether their leased property is subject to the CARES Act Moratorium. You may

be required to complete an affidavit of non-CARES Act property, to provide information on the purchase of your property, including mortgage papers and other information pertaining to subsidized financing. An inquiry will also be made about whether rental payments are subsidized.

IT IS FURTHER RECOGNIZED THAT this Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until the close of business on June 30, 2020, unless modified by further order of the Court.

Signed on this date, in Chambers, at Lafayette, Louisiana on this 16th day of May, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas J. Saloom", written over a horizontal line.

Douglas J. Saloom
Chief Judge, City Court of Lafayette