

IN THE COURTS OF SUMNER COUNTY, TENNESSEE

ORDER LIMITING PUBLIC ACCESS

December 16, 2020

On March 13, 2020, the Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court declared a state of emergency for the Judicial Branch of the Tennessee government and activated a Continuity of Operations Plan for the courts of Tennessee. (In Re: COVID-19 Pandemic, 3/13/2020)

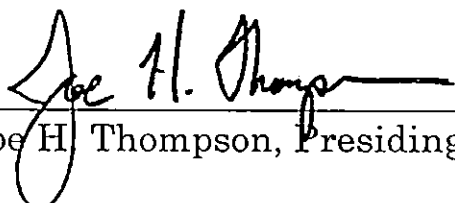
In light of the recent significant increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in Sumner County, Tennessee, the courts find it necessary to limit in-person contact with the public. To that end, all in-person access to the Circuit, Chancery, and Criminal Courts and General Sessions Courts, Divisions I, II and III, shall be limited to those persons necessary for in-Court proceedings and shall be limited to attorneys, parties, witnesses, security officers, and other necessary persons, as determined by the trial judge. Judges and their staff shall ensure that social distancing and other measures are strictly observed.

The judges' and the court clerks' offices shall be closed to in-person access but shall remain accessible by telephone, email and fax during regular business hours. Drop boxes and/or electronic mail may be used for conventionally filed documents.

Any member of the public or media who wishes to access a court proceeding should contact the undersigned Presiding Judge at scheduling.sumner.circuit@tncourts.gov at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the proceeding. Requests to access court proceedings shall include the court, the style of the case, the date of the hearing, and the reason that access is requested.

This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until further orders of the court.

This the 17th day of December, 2020.



Joe H. Thompson, Presiding Judge