

SUPREME COURT OF ARKANSAS

Opinion Delivered: April 28, 2020

IN RE RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC—AMENDMENTS TO
COURT RULES

PER CURIAM

On March 11, 2020, Governor Hutchinson declared a COVID-19 “State of Emergency,” which remains in effect. In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Supreme Court of Arkansas issued per curiam orders on March 17, March 20, April 3, and April 23, 2020, implementing emergency precautions to help protect the public from unnecessary risks. *See In re Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic*, 2020 Ark. 116 (per curiam); *In re Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic*, 2020 Ark. 125 (per curiam); *In re Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic*, 2020 Ark. 132 (per curiam); *In re Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic*, 2020 Ark. 163 (per curiam). All previously announced suspensions and extensions from the court’s earlier responses to the COVID-19 pandemic remain in effect until further notice.

Today, we announce additional measures to combat the spread of the disease to the public, including the employees of the Arkansas judiciary. Pursuant to our superintending authority under Amendment 80 of the Arkansas Constitution, the Supreme Court of Arkansas announces the suspension of the time requirements under Arkansas Civil Procedure Rules 4(i), 33(b), 34(b), and 36(a) and District Court Rule 3 from the date of this per curiam

until further order of this court. We implement these measures due to the restrictions imposed by social-distancing guidelines.

This Order applies statewide to all courts and court clerks' offices except administrative courts of the executive branch, federal courts, and federal court clerks' offices.

It is so ORDERED.

WOOD AND WOMACK, JJ., dissent.