

## PRESS RELEASE REGARDING SEBASTIAN COUNTY COURTS BUILDING

Please take note of the following adjustments in the operation of Sebastian County Circuit Court, Fort Smith District Court and Greenwood District Court in response to the Coronavirus emergency. These adjustments are made after consultation with public health officials. Effective immediately and extending through May 1, 2020, only essential court hearings will take place at the Sebastian County Courts Building and the Greenwood Courthouse. Essential court is categorized as those designated by statute as such as well as those designated by the respective presiding judges, with guidance from a statement issued by Chief Justice Kemp. For our purposes, the list of essential court is as follows:

### CIRCUIT COURT

Arraignments of incarcerated defendants

Juvenile Court detention hearings

Ex Parte Orders

Protective Orders

Mental Illness Commitments

### FORT SMITH DISTRICT COURT

Arraignments of incarcerated defendants

### GREENWOOD DISTRICT COURT

## Arraignments of incarcerated defendants

Civil cases which may be heard by telephone conference may proceed with coordination through the office of the presiding judge. Agreed Orders may of course still be submitted and uncontested divorces may be submitted by interrogatories or affidavit, All other matters set for hearing or trial May 1 or prior will be rescheduled. As much as possible please handle filings and other business with the Circuit Clerk and the District Courts by fax, email or telephone.

Also, persons paying fines or restitution to District Court or through the Prosecuting Attorney's Office are encouraged to do so by mail or online. Those who appear in person to pay will be directed by staff to make payments by those methods until business as usual resumes.

Payments being made to the Fort Smith District Court can be made on-line at [www.myfinepayment.com](http://www.myfinepayment.com) or by phone at 877-591-8768. Mail payments should be mailed to Fort Smith District Court at 901 South B Street, Suite 103, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

In addition, effective immediately the Circuit Clerks Office will waive any fees associated with the fax filing of pleadings until May 1, 2020.