

**Press Release re: Washington and Madison County Circuit Courts**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Due to the rising number of cases of COVID-19 in Arkansas and the public health emergency declared by the United States, the State of Arkansas and Washington County, please be advised of the following effective immediately for Washington and Madison County Circuit Courts (Please reference Judge Zimmerman's earlier press release re: hearings in the Juvenile Division): All court appearances will be limited to essential court proceedings only, which include all criminal initial appearances, requests for an Order of Protection and related hearings, emergency custody hearings in Probate and Domestic Relations cases, Adult Protective Services cases, and mental commitment proceedings. All civil jury trials will be suspended for at least 45 days. Default divorces may be taken by affidavit. If you have a pending criminal or domestic relations court date, contact your attorney for further instructions.