



TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT
en banc

To: Members of the 12th Circuit Bar
Circuit Clerks and Court Staff
Juvenile Office
Municipal Judges and Clerks
Sheriffs and Bailiffs
12th Circuit Children's Division Offices
12th Circuit Probation & Parole Offices
12th Circuit Community Mental Health Liaisons
County Commissions and Clerks

From: Jason H. Lamb

RE: Return to Phase One

Date: July 15, 2020

We will be returning to Operating Phase One effective immediately and will remain in Phase One until further notice. This is not the news we want to deliver, but it is the action we are compelled to take. The COVID case count throughout the circuit has risen steadily over the past week. Warren County now has more active cases than recovered cases. We have a confirmed positive of an individual who entered the Montgomery County Courtroom. As we have said all along, we will only advance or remain in a phase if the community health conditions improve. The health and safety of court staff, attorneys, litigants, witnesses, victims and everyone else who enters into the courthouses in the circuit is paramount in our decision-making. We will continue to ensure access to justice for all individuals, and will vigorously pursue video dockets and hearings to keep matters moving forward.

Phase One procedures will remain the same as they were before. In addition to the emergency, order of protection and juvenile in-person proceedings that have been allowed since the beginning, the only other in-person proceedings allowed will be Criminal preliminary hearings and probation violation hearings for individuals incarcerated in a county jail within the circuit, and Domestic Relations pendente lite motions

We have strongly encouraged all attorneys to appear by video from the beginning. We greatly appreciate your efforts to do so. We don't know how long we will be in Phase One. We are asking each of you to make the necessary software arrangements to appear by video if you haven't done so already. For those attorneys with in-person proceeding dockets, please be prepared to discuss with the judge presiding over the docket the possibility of video appearances for those dockets as well.

As always, please feel free to reach out to myself or any member of the Court en Banc with questions or concerns

cc: Court en Banc