



TWENTY-SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

STATE OF LOUISIANA

ST. TAMMANY PARISH JUSTICE CENTER
701 NORTH COLUMBIA STREET, ROOM 3068
COVINGTON, LOUISIANA 70433

DAWN AMACKER
DISTRICT JUDGE
DIVISION "L"

ST. TAMMANY
WASHINGTON
PARISHES

Dear Members of the Bar:

I hope this bright and beautiful Friday finds all of you and your family doing well. Here at the courthouse we have had a productive week, resulting in the formulation of a plan to safely and effectively move toward re-opening the court in both parishes. Attached are the latest orders from both the 22nd Judicial District Court and the Louisiana Supreme Court. Our order now extends until May 18, 2020, the reinstatement date of in-person non-emergency hearings. While we do expect further orders coming in next week from the Supreme Court after the Governor's next proclamation, our judges felt it was important to let you know now about these extensions in our District. In the event the Supreme Court extends the date that the courts can reinstate non-emergency in-person hearings past May 18th, we will amend our orders accordingly.

Yesterday, several of our judges, together with the Court's administrators, met with St. Tammany's Parish President, the Washington Parish Director of Public Works, both Clerks of Court, the Public Defender, and representatives from the District Attorney's office, the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's and Assessor's offices, and representatives of various agencies located in the courthouses, to discuss the plan for re-opening the Court. The meeting went well. Everyone contributed carefully researched suggestions, plans, and ideas and we will have some detailed information on this to you prior to May 4th.

The re-opening of Court on May 4th for in-person emergency hearings and then on May 18th for all other hearings as scheduled, will be "soft openings" with restrictive parameters and limitations that are necessary to protect everyone and allow for flexibility to make changes as matters improve. On next Friday, several of the judges and hearing officers are presenting in 2 webinars to the Bar. One will address Family Court matters and the other will be a presentation on criminal, civil and juvenile matters by the General Jurisdictional Judges, and both will qualify for CLE credit. Look for details to come from the Bar. Please get all questions in timely as directed by President Rachel Catalanotto, so we can prepare!

I will end with a quote that helped me through this week – one attributed to Winston Churchill, "The future is unknowable, but the past should give us hope."

Best wishes for a restful weekend with your family.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dawn Amacker", with a long, sweeping underline.

Dawn Amacker
Chief Judge, 22nd Judicial District Court