

IN THE TRIBAL SUPREME COURT OF THE  
MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

ADDITIONAL TWO WEEK EXTENSION OF THE INITIAL  
MARCH 17 EMERGENCY ORDER NO. 1 RELATED TO THE  
SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) DISEASE.  
EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER - 3

On March 17, 2020, the Chief Justice of the Choctaw Tribal Supreme Court, acting as chief administrative officer of all courts of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, issued Emergency Administrative Order No. 1, announcing a two-week suspension of all formal court operations save and except such emergency or other compassionate proceedings as may be determined on an ad hoc case-by-case basis as may be recommended by the senior presiding judge of the respective trial level courts and also authorized by the Chief Justice through March 31, 2020.

This interim step was to hinder the introduction and/or spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) virus into the courthouse and other facilities comprising the Smith John Center for Justice. Since that date the nationwide spread of the disease has only deepened and that first emergency ordered suspension was extended through April 13, 2020. Now a second fourteen (14) day emergency ordered suspension is required.

Consequently, the Choctaw Tribal Supreme Court again finds that a second extension of certain emergency actions remains required in light of the pandemic nature of this emergency and the rapidly changing circumstances. Therefore, in my capacity as chief administrative officer of all courts of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians tribal court system, I find that the following modifications and/or suspensions of tribal court operations remain required:

I find that it remains necessary for the general welfare and health of the general and tribal public subject to this jurisdiction to again extend restrictions on the size of gatherings in our courts, and to also extend the suspension of all formal court operations save and except such emergency or other compassionate proceedings as may be determined on an ad hoc case-by-case basis as may be recommended by the senior presiding judge of the respective trial level courts and authorized by the Chief Justice for an additional fourteen (14) days through April 27, 2020. This interim extension is to continue to hinder the introduction and/or spread of the virus into the courthouse and other facilities comprising the Smith John Center for Justice. It shall also continue to provide added time in which to gather additional information and tribal, state, and national guidance in evaluation of whether and, if so, what further or alternative actions or extensions of time may need to be implemented.

In furtherance of this order and to avoid the disruption of all subsequent orderly civil and criminal tribal court operations and proceedings, this emergency action necessarily requires and mandates the tolling of all civil and criminal substantive and procedural time frames and limitations during such time as this extended suspension period shall remain in full force and effect.

This Order may be amended, extended, or otherwise modified as circumstances dictate.

SO ORDERED this the 13th day of April, 2020.

Chief Justice of the Choctaw Tribal Supreme Court