

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CRAIGHEAD COUNTY, ARKANSAS
WESTERN DISTRICT
CRIMINAL DIVISION

IN RE: PLEA AND ARRAIGNMENT (APRIL 24, 2020)

ORDER OF CONTINUANCE AND TOLLING OF SPEEDY TRIAL

In light of a global pandemic, the United States of America and the State of Arkansas, working in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and the Arkansas Department of Health, respectively, have taken extraordinary measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, commonly known as the Coronavirus. On March 11, 2020, the Governor of Arkansas issued Executive Order 20-03, declaring a state emergency. On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency. On March 26, 2020, the Governor of Arkansas issued a directive banning public gatherings of more than ten (10) people.

Accordingly, the Court finds that it would be unsafe to the parties, court staff, and the citizens of Arkansas to hold court on the currently scheduled date. Due to the ongoing public health crisis, the Court finds GOOD CAUSE to continue the present setting and toll speedy trial until the next available court date. The Court further finds that this delay is necessary to ensure public safety and will not result in prejudice to the Defendant.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that **Criminal Plea and Arraignment is continued from April 24, 2020, to May 20, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. For individuals whose last name begins with the letters A-L, your reporting time will begin at 9:00 a.m. For individuals whose last name begins with the letters M-Z, your reporting time will begin at 1:00 p.m. Masks are to be worn and social distancing maintained at all times. If you have not spoken to an attorney, please make contact with the Craighead County Public Defender’s Office at 870-932-6226 immediately.** Speedy trial and the nine-month rule, if applicable, are tolled from the date of this order until the next court date, pursuant to Arkansas Rules of Criminal Procedure 28.1(a) and 28.3(h).

Cindy Grace Thyer 4/21/2020

CIRCUIT JUDGE, DIVISION 4