FILED
NOV 04 2026
OFFICE OF THE CLERK
SUPREME COURT
COURT OF APPEALS

Serial: **265183**

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF MISSISSIPPI

No. 2026-AD-00001-SCT

RE: ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS OF THE SUPREME COURT OF MISSISSIPPI

EN BANC ORDER

This matter is before the Court, en banc, on the request of the Director of the Administrative Office of Courts for an order establishing procedures for the chancery, circuit, and county courts while the Mississippi Electronic Courts (MEC) system is offline to implement judicial redistricting.

During its 2025 Regular Session, the Legislature enacted Senate Bill 2768 and House Bill 1544, which redistrict the chancery and circuit court districts of this state as required by Article 6, Section 152 of the Mississippi Constitution of 1890. The new district boundaries take effect January 1, 2027.

To implement the new districts, the Administrative Office of Courts must migrate users, cases, case assignments, dockets, documents, and settings among the MEC district servers. That work cannot be performed while the system is in use. Because the district courts share databases, and the county courts are housed on the circuit court district servers, every chancery, circuit, and county court must be taken offline together, whether or not its district changed. MEC e-filing in the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals is not affected and will remain available.

The Administrative Office of Courts has scheduled this required administrative shutdown from 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 23, 2026, until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, January 4, 2027, a period that falls largely within the Christmas and New Year's holidays. During the shutdown, filing, docketing, service, and public access cannot take place through MEC as the Administrative Procedures for Mississippi Electronic Courts (APMEC) require. The Court finds that temporary procedures are necessary to ensure that filings made, orders entered, and service accomplished during the shutdown are valid, and that the record is complete when MEC is restored.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED as follows:

1. **Shutdown period.** The "shutdown period" begins at 5:00 p.m. Central Standard Time on December 23, 2026, and ends when the Administrative Office of Courts announces at

mec.ms.gov that MEC has been restored, which is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on January 4, 2027. The shutdown is a required administrative shutdown to implement Senate Bill 2768 and House Bill 1544 (2025 Regular Session). It is not a technical failure under Section 8.A of the APMEC.

2. **Scope.** This order applies to all civil and criminal cases in every chancery, circuit, and county court of this state. It does not apply to the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeals. MEC e-filing in the appellate courts will remain available throughout the shutdown period.

3. **Conventional filing.** During the shutdown period, all documents shall be filed conventionally with the clerk of the court during the clerk's regular business hours. Leave of court under Section 6.A.4.g of the APMEC and a Declaration of Technical Difficulties under Section 8 of the APMEC are not required.

4. **Filing date.** The clerk shall stamp each document filed during the shutdown period with the date received. That date is the filing date for all purposes. Upon restoration, the clerk shall scan and enter each document into MEC using its stamped filing date, and the entry shall relate back to that date. A new case shall be assigned the case number that corresponds to its stamped filing date.

5. **Priority of entry.** Upon restoration, clerks shall enter documents filed during the shutdown period promptly, giving priority to orders of the court and time-sensitive filings, then new cases, then all other filings in order of filing date.

6. **Orders of the court.** An order, judgment, or decree filed with the clerk during the shutdown period shall be file-stamped with the date received. Except as provided in the next sentence, it is effective and entered as of that file-stamp date for purposes of M.R.C.P. 58 and 79(a), UCCR 5.06, and the Mississippi Rules of Criminal Procedure. An order that a statute or rule makes effective upon signature or issuance, such as an emergency domestic abuse protection order under Miss. Code Ann. § 93-21-13, is effective as that statute or rule provides, and nothing in this order delays its effectiveness. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any period of time that runs from the entry of an order, judgment, or decree filed during the shutdown period shall begin to run on the date it is docketed in MEC. This includes the periods under M.R.C.P. 50(b), 52(b), 59, and 60, the post-trial motion periods under the Mississippi Rules of Criminal Procedure, and M.R.A.P. 4. The Notice of Electronic Filing generated when the order, judgment, or decree is docketed satisfies the clerk's notice duty under M.R.C.P. 77(d) as to MEC-registered attorneys. The clerk may give earlier notice conventionally.

7. **Service.** The Notice of Electronic Filing generated when a document filed during the shutdown period is docketed into MEC constitutes service on MEC-registered attorneys under Section 3.F of the APMEC, notwithstanding Section 6.B. A party who needs to serve

a document before it is docketed may serve it in any manner permitted by M.R.C.P. 5 or M.R.Cr.P. 1.7 and shall file a notice of service stating the method used. Parties who are not MEC-registered shall be served as the Mississippi Rules of Civil Procedure provide.

8. **Copies to chambers.** A party seeking court action on a time-sensitive matter during the shutdown period shall first file the document with the clerk and may then hand-deliver or email a copy to the chambers of the appropriate judge. A copy delivered or emailed to chambers is not a filing.

9. **Public access.** During the shutdown period, court records will not be available electronically, either remotely through MEC or on terminals in the clerk's office. Clerks may fulfill requests for records upon restoration.

10. **Deadlines.** Consistent with existing rules, nothing in this order extends any deadline. Time shall be computed under M.R.C.P. 6(a), M.R.Cr.P. 1.3(a), and other applicable rules. The shutdown of MEC does not by itself make a clerk's office closed for purposes of those rules.

11. **Notice.** The Administrative Office of Courts shall give notice of this order to judges, clerks, and members of The Mississippi Bar and shall post it at mec.ms.gov.

12. **Minutes.** The Clerk of this Court shall spread this order upon the minutes of the Court.

SO ORDERED, this the 4th day of November, 2026.

MICHAEL K. RANDOLPH,
CHIEF JUSTICE
FOR THE COURT

ALL JUSTICES AGREE.