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Mizell Memorial Hospital Announces Chapter 11 Filing to Ensure Long-Term Stability

Opp, AL – On April 29, 2026, Mizell Memorial Hospital in Opp, AL, announced that it voluntarily filed for protection under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Alabama sitting in Montgomery. Doing so is intended to stabilize the hospital financially while it continues to provide the level of service and care patients expect and deserve.

While navigating the Chapter 11 process, Mizell Memorial Hospital’s primary goal is preserving critical healthcare services in the community. All hospital and clinic locations and services are, and will remain, open at current capacity. All employees, nurses, medical support staff, and physicians will continue to be paid. Patients with scheduled appointments and/or procedures will be seen at their scheduled appointment time. Clinics will continue to schedule future patient appointments, and the urgent care clinic will continue to accept walk-in patients on an ongoing basis. All emergency services are and will remain available.

Chief Executive Officer Deborah Franklin states “We assure you that filing for Chapter 11 provides a structure to address specific financial challenges while continuing our daily operations. We are open! Your hospital will stay open. We welcome all.”

Mizell Memorial Hospital is not alone in the challenges it is facing. Rural hospitals across the country face daunting economic hurdles, such as reimbursement shortfalls from all payors and escalating costs for workforce, pharmacy, and supplies. At the same time regulatory and administrative burdens increase every year with little to no funding to offset the additional compliance efforts.

Rural hospitals serve a vital role in the healthcare delivery system, and we look forward to working with city, regional and national leaders, as well as our community, to ensure we remain open to provide local care, essential services, and countless jobs to our community.

Mizell Memorial Hospital is a general acute care hospital that has been a part of the healthcare system in Covington County and surrounding areas for over 75 years. As a not-for-profit hospital, Mizell Memorial Hospital is not only a provider for quality healthcare, but a vital asset to the community. Among other service lines, Mizell Memorial Hospital provides vital general medical and surgical services, a 5-bed Intensive Care Unit, 24-hour Emergency

Department, a community Infusion Center, Swing Bed Rehabilitation services, a senior Behavioral Care Unit, and several clinics located in both Opp and Elba.

These services are supported by over 200 employees, making Mizell Memorial Hospital not only the sole healthcare provider for many families in the community and the surrounding areas, but the largest employer in Opp as well. In addition to providing jobs within the hospital, Mizell Memorial Hospital provides another estimated 125 jobs across the community. Because of this, Mizell Memorial Hospital plays a key role in economic development and the economic stability of Opp and the surrounding areas, contributing an estimated \$48 million total economic impact.

“Mizell Memorial Hospital intends to continue to be a strong thread in our tight-knit community, serving our Opp family and surrounding area with the same ‘quality care with hometown compassion’ we’ve always strived for.” said Franklin. “Our doors are, and will continue to remain, open to all members of our community.”

For additional information, please contact Ronn Steen, Thompson Burton PLLC, at (615) 465-6000.