



Summary of  
**MICHIGAN COURT OPERATIONS  
DURING COVID-19**

**VARNUM**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**Summary of Michigan Court Operations During COVID-19**

**(Last Updated March 27, 2020)**

*This document contains summaries of key provisions of court orders and announcements regarding courts operations and procedures during the COVID-19 emergency. Attorneys and litigants should refer to the links provided and court websites for the most complete and updated information.*

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## MICHIGAN STATE TRIAL AND APPELLATE COURTS

### APPELLATE COURTS

#### Supreme Court of Michigan

##### **Administrative Order No. 2020-4 (AO 2020-4) (March 26, 2020 - Most Recent)**

[https://courts.michigan.gov/Courts/MichiganSupremeCourt/rules/court-rules-admin-matters/Administrative%20Orders/2020-08\\_2020-03-26\\_FormattedOrder\\_AO2020-4.pdf](https://courts.michigan.gov/Courts/MichiganSupremeCourt/rules/court-rules-admin-matters/Administrative%20Orders/2020-08_2020-03-26_FormattedOrder_AO2020-4.pdf)

The deadlines for all filings, jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional, in the Michigan Supreme Court and Court of Appeals are suspended as of March 24, 2020 and will be tolled until the expiration of Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-21 (EO 2020-21) (April 13, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.) or a subsequent order that extends the period in which citizens are required to suspend activities that are not necessary to sustain or protect life. EO 2020-21 is available at: [https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499\\_90705-522626--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499_90705-522626--,00.html)

Filers will have the same number of days to submit their filings after the order expires as they had before the suspension went into effect.

##### **Administrative Order No. 2020-3 (AO 2020-3) (March 23, 2020)**

[https://courts.michigan.gov/Courts/MichiganSupremeCourt/rules/court-rules-admin-matters/Administrative%20Orders/2020-08\\_2020-03-23\\_FormattedOrder\\_AO2020-3.pdf](https://courts.michigan.gov/Courts/MichiganSupremeCourt/rules/court-rules-admin-matters/Administrative%20Orders/2020-08_2020-03-23_FormattedOrder_AO2020-3.pdf)

This order extends deadlines related to filing civil and probate actions that falls during the state of emergency. The order also extends the time to file an initial response to a complaint, whether that is an answer or a motion under MCR 2.116, to the extent the deadline to respond falls during the state of emergency.

Courts are still encouraged to conduct hearings remotely whenever possible.

This order does not prohibit or restrict a litigant from commencing a proceeding whenever the litigant chooses. Courts must have a system in place to allow for remote filings.

##### **Administrative Order No. 2020-2 (AO 2020-2) (March 18, 2020)**

[https://courts.michigan.gov/Courts/MichiganSupremeCourt/rules/court-rules-admin-matters/Administrative%20Orders/2020-08\\_2020-03-18\\_FormattedOrder\\_AO2020-2.pdf](https://courts.michigan.gov/Courts/MichiganSupremeCourt/rules/court-rules-admin-matters/Administrative%20Orders/2020-08_2020-03-18_FormattedOrder_AO2020-2.pdf)

*This order was issued prior to Governor Whitmer's Stay Home, Stay Safe Order (EO 2020-21), which affects the end date of this order. Please refer to the trial or appellate court's website for updates.*

Trial courts are ordered to limit access to courtrooms and other spaces to no more than 10 persons, including staff, and to practice social distancing and limit court activity to only essential functions.

This order shall remain in effect until the close of business Friday, April 3, 2020 or as provided by subsequent order.

**Essential functions include the following:**

- **Circuit Courts**
  - Criminal Proceedings
    - To the extent possible, courts should conduct the following hearings remotely:
    - In-custody criminal defendants, pleas, sentencings, arraignments, probation violation arraignments and emergency motions regarding bond. If the defendant is not in custody, these matters should be adjourned.
    - Processing of criminal extradition matters for in-custody defendants.
    - All other criminal matters should be adjourned.
  - General Civil and Business Court Proceedings
    - Infectious disease proceedings.
    - Limited proceedings regarding personal protection orders.
    - All other civil and business court matters, including trials, must be conducted remotely or must be adjourned until after April 3, 2020.
  - Family Court Proceedings
    - Review and determine requests for ex parte relief in domestic relations proceedings necessary for the safety and well-being of a litigant and/or child.
    - Safe delivery of newborn child proceeding.
    - Waiver for parental consent proceedings.
    - Juvenile delinquency proceedings.
    - Child protective proceedings.
    - Friend of the Court arraignments on bench warrants.
    - All other family court matters, including trials, must be conducted remotely or must be adjourned until after April 3, 2020.
- **District Courts**
  - Criminal Matters – To the extent possible, courts should conduct the following hearings remotely:
    - For in-custody criminal defendants, pleas, sentencing, arraignments, bond motions, probable cause conferences and preliminary examinations.
    - Processing of criminal extradition matters for in-custody defendants.
    - Review and determination requests for search warrants.
    - All other criminal matters shall be adjourned. All criminal jury trials shall be adjourned until after April 3, 2020.
  - Civil Matters – All matters must be conducted remotely or adjourned until after April 3, 2020.

- Traffic Matters – All matters must be conducted remotely or adjourned until after April 3, 2020. No bench warrants shall be issued for individuals failing to appear during the state of emergency.
- **Probate Courts**
  - Proceedings regarding involuntary mental health treatment.
  - Petitions for immediate funeral/burial arrangements.
  - Emergency petitions filed by Adult Protective Services.
  - Emergency petitions for guardianship.
  - Emergency conservatorships and other protective orders in cases with immediate pending evictions/foreclosures/shut off notices.
  - Estates where immediate access to residence is necessary.
  - Ex-parte requests for temporary restraining orders.
  - Courts shall permit remote proceedings involving mental health and guardianship matters, unless a health and safety issue requires in-person appearance.
  - All other probate matters must be conducted remotely or adjourned until after April 3, 2020.

The court must work with the county clerk to ensure that if in-person filing of court pleadings is limited due to the state of emergency, court pleadings will continue to be accepted for filing by other means, such as U.S. mail, e-filing, email or fax.

### **Michigan Court of Appeals**

<https://courts.michigan.gov/courts/coa/Pages/default.aspx>

As of March 26, 2020 and subject to AO 2020-4, all jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional filing deadlines in the Court of Appeals are suspended. Any filing deadline provided by a rule or by prior court order will be tolled as provided in AO 2020.

The Court of Appeals is closed to the public until further notice.

Filings to the Court of Appeals should be submitted electronically through MIFILE or in hard copy through the U.S. mail or private delivery service.

Filings to the Court of Claims should be made in hard copy through the U.S. mail or private delivery service.

If you have a time-sensitive filing that requires immediate delivery in hard copy, each office will have a designated location at the office entrance where filings may be deposited.

### **April Case Call**

The Court of Appeals will be issuing notices in cases assigned to the April calendar where the panel does not deem oral argument essential, and the case will be decided without oral argument pursuant to MCR 7.214(E). Cases where oral argument is required will be held via conference call arranged by the court, with one case selected, upon the parties consent, to be argued via video-conference. If that argument is successful, oral arguments scheduled for May 2020 may make use of video-conference or other technology.



## MICHIGAN CIRCUIT AND PROBATE COURTS

### **1st Circuit Court (Hillsdale County), and Hillsdale County Probate Court**

[https://www.co.hillsdale.mi.us/images/documents/covid19/Press\\_Release\\_2020\\_-03-17\\_v2.pdf](https://www.co.hillsdale.mi.us/images/documents/covid19/Press_Release_2020_-03-17_v2.pdf)

(Last updated March 17, 2020)

Effective March 18, 2020 until further notice:

All county buildings will be closed to the public except for emergency matters.

All courtrooms are closed to the public, and only emergency hearings will take place.

All matters handled by the County Clerk must be done by mail or by telephone, 517-437-3391. Only emergency filings will be accepted in person.

All matters handled by the Circuit Court must be done by mail or by telephone, 517-437-4321. Only emergency filings will be accepted in person.

All matters handled by the Probate Court must be done by mail or by telephone, 517-437-4643. Only emergency filings will be accepted in person.

### **2nd Circuit Court (Berrien County) and Berrien County Probate Court**

<https://www.berriencounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/11019/Berrien-County-Trial-Court-Policy---State-of-Emergency-Essential-Operations-Plan> (last updated March 19, 2020)

In accordance with AO 2020-2, the trial court will be limited to essential functions only, with access to courtrooms and other limited spaces to no more than 10 persons, including staff.

Cases adjourned (detailed below) to a date later than May 4, 2020.

Courthouses will be open for emergency filings (detailed below) from 8:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. daily.

Public may still call or email the court with questions or filings.

Public may continue to file all non-emergency filings with the court by mail, fax or email.

#### Criminal Proceedings:

The following will be held for in-custody defendants:

- Pleas, sentencings, arraignments, probation violation arraignments, emergency motions regarding bond, probable cause conferences and preliminary examinations.
- Processing of criminal extradition matters for in-custody defendants.
- Review and determination of requests for search warrants pursuant to MCL 780.651.
- Review and issuance of arrest warrants pursuant to MCL 764.1a for crimes that present a danger to public safety.

All other criminal matters, including non-emergency matters where the defendant is not in custody, shall be adjourned.

All civil infractions, including trials, shall be adjourned. Traffic civil infractions can continue to be handled online, by telephone or by mail.

All criminal jury trials shall be adjourned.

Other emergency motions will be held at the discretion of the court.

Civil Proceedings:

Court will handle limited proceedings regarding personal protection orders.

All other civil and business court matters, including trials, will be adjourned.

Family Court Proceedings:

The following matters are NOT adjourned:

- Review and determine requests for ex parte relief in domestic relations proceedings necessary for the safety and well-being of a litigant and/or children.
- Safe delivery of a newborn child proceedings.
- Waiver for parental consent proceedings under the Parental Rights Restoration Act.
- Juvenile delinquency proceedings.
- Child protective proceedings.
- Friend of the Court arraignments on bench warrants.

All other family court matters, including trials, will be adjourned.

Other emergency motions in the discretion of the court.

Probate Proceedings:

The following matters are NOT adjourned:

- Proceedings regarding involuntary mental health treatment under Chapter 4 of the Mental Health Code.
- Petitions for immediate funeral/burial arrangements.
- Emergency petitions filed by Adult Protective Services.
- Emergency petitions for guardianship.
- Emergency conservatorships and other protective orders pursuant in those cases with immediate pending evictions/foreclosures/shut off notices.
- Estates where immediate access to residence is necessary.
- Ex parte requests for temporary restraining orders.

With regard to proceedings involving mental health and guardianship matters, courts shall permit the use of video technology unless a health and safety issue requires an in-person appearance.

All other probate court matters will be adjourned.

Emergency Circuit Court filings may be filed by appointment only from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the courthouse by calling 269-983-7111, ext. 8385.

### **3rd Circuit Court (Wayne County) and Wayne County Probate Court**

<https://www.3rdcc.org/covid19#general> (Last updated March 23, 2020)

Link to essential services phone numbers: <https://www.3rdcc.org/covid19/2020/03/17/essential-services---important-court-phone-numbers>

#### **Civil Proceedings:**

The following applies to civil division and business court:

- Scheduling order in every case is extended by 60 days.
- All trials scheduled through April 30 *adjourned* without an order.
- Business court status conference *adjourned* through April 30, 2020.
- Motions will resume May 1, 2020.

For true emergency matters, attorneys may contact 313-224-8796, and an emergency judge will be notified.

#### **Criminal Proceedings:**

Until further notice, all Third Circuit Court Criminal Division matters will be heard remotely. No attorneys shall appear at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice for defendants in custody for:

- Arraignments on the information
- Probation violation warrant arraignments
- Bench warrant arraignments
- Sentencings
- Emergency bond motions

#### **Family and Domestic Proceedings:**

(last updated March 19, 2020)

The Family Division-Domestic Relations shall provide the following essential operations:

Cases heard at either the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center or Penobscot Building:

- The review and determination of requests for personal protection orders (PPOs), including hearings on denied PPOs.
- Review and determination of emergency requests to extend a PPO.
- Initial hearings for in-custody respondent arrested for violation of PPO to allow court to address issue of bond.
- Review and determine requests for ex parte relief in domestic relations proceedings necessary for the safety and well-being of a litigant and/or children under MCR 3.207.
- Waiver for parental consent.
- Approving and/or hearing emergency hearings as are deemed necessary by the sitting judge.

- Review and determine requests for ex parte relief in domestic relations proceedings necessary for the safety and well-being of a litigant and/or children under MCR 3.207.
- Waiver for parental consent.
- Approving and/or hearing emergency hearings as are deemed necessary by the sitting emergency judge.

The Wayne County Friend of the Court Call Center is temporarily not receiving phone calls due to the state of emergency. Instructions for getting information regarding child support cases is available at <https://www.3rdcc.org/covid19/2020/03/23/press-release---wayne-county-friend-of-the-court-call-center> (last updated March 23, 2020)

**Probate Court:**

Essential functions for the Wayne County Probate Court include:

- Mental health pick-up/transport orders.
- Other mental health petitions, including petitions for hospitalization.
- Petitions for immediate funeral/burial arrangements.
- Guardianships involving life-threatening medical emergencies.
- Conservatorships with immediate pending evictions/foreclosures/shut off notices.
- Estates where immediate access to residence is necessary.
- Requests for ex parte temporary restraining orders.
- Emergency petitions filed by Adult Protective Services and Child Protective Services.

These emergency items can be filed via fax or email. [Click here](#) for a link.

**4th Circuit Court (Jackson County) and Jackson County Probate Court**

[https://www.mijackson.org/DocumentCenter/View/9181/LAO Update 202003171122055044](https://www.mijackson.org/DocumentCenter/View/9181/LAO_Update_202003171122055044)

(Last updated March 17, 2020)

4th Circuit Court, 12th District Court and Jackson County Probate Court are temporarily closed for essential business.

Court shall be completely closed on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 through Friday, April 13, 2020 with exception of the following essential services:

- Only essential and/or emergency hearing to be determined by the individual judges.
- No court hearings to be held in courthouse.
- Only essential custodial and facility personnel may enter premises.

**5th Circuit Court (Barry County) and Barry County Probate Court**

<https://www.barrycounty.org/Barry%20County%20Trial%20Court%20-%20Court%20Plan%20Limiting%20Access%20to%20Court%20Facility.pdf>

(Last updated March 17, 2020)

All trial court matters will be adjourned and the business offices of the Barry County Trial Court (BCTC), including the Friend of the Court, shall be limited from Wednesday, March 18, 2020 through Sunday, April 5, 2020 with exception to the following essential services:

- In-custody arraignments.
- Probable cause conferences and preliminary examinations that are not waived.
- To the extent possible, BCTC will continue to conduct all previously scheduled in-custody hearings.
- Hearings involving in-custody juveniles. These hearings will be scheduled Monday through Friday.
- Preliminary/emergency hearings involving child protective proceedings.
- Waiver hearings for youth to be charged as or with the rights attributed to an adult.
- The initiation and violation of personal protection order(s).
- Emergency mental health hearings.
- Emergency motions on any matter including show cause and injunctive order requests.

**6th Circuit Court (Oakland County) and Oakland County Probate Court**

<https://www.oakgov.com/courts/circuit/Documents/ao/covid19/6th-judicial-circuit-court-covid19-state-of-emergency-procedures-updated-3-23-20.pdf>

(Last updated March 23, 2020)

**Civil Proceedings:**

Requests for emergency show cause and injunction will be reviewed by assigned judge or judge on call.

Business court emergencies will be reviewed by the assigned judge or judge on call.

Civil jury and bench trials adjourned through April 10 or until further notice.

No in-person civil motion calls will be conducted through April 10. Motions will be filed and heard via telephone.

Case evaluation hearings scheduled to be heard through April 10 will be adjourned until further notice by the court.

**Criminal Proceedings:**

Arraignments on the information will be done by mail through April 10.

Court will conduct:

- Emergency bond motions
- Arraignments on bench warrants and warrants for violations of probation

All criminal jury trials scheduled through April 10 will be adjourned. Criminal jury trials in progress as of March 16 will continue.

Sentencing hearings for in-custody defendants will be held by video unless objected to by the defense, and in that case may be adjourned.

All criminal calls will be adjourned.

Family and Domestic Relations:

(Last updated March 17, 2020)

Divorce, custody and parenting time matters alleging an immediate threat of harm to children, and all family division motion calls, will be adjourned through April 10.

Emergency motions may be heard by telephone when possible.

Probate Court:

<https://www.oakgov.com/courts/probate/about/Pages/announcements.aspx>

The Probate court counter will be closed to all filings other than emergencies.

Emergency filings will be accepted at the probate court during normal business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). This includes:

- Mental health pick-up/transport orders.
- Other mental health petitions, including petitions for hospitalization.
- Petitions for immediate funeral/burial arrangements.
- Guardianships involving life-threatening medical emergencies.
- Conservatorships with immediate pending evictions/foreclosures/shut off notices.
- Estates where immediate access to residence is necessary.
- Requests for ex parte temporary restraining orders.

**7th Circuit Court (Genesee County) and Genesee County Probate Court**

<https://7thcircuitcourt.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID-19-Press-Release-3.19.2020.pdf>

(Last updated March 19, 2020)

These courts will be closed except for essential functions, including:

- Arraignments.
- Sentencings for in-custody defendants.
- Review and determination of requests for arrest and search warrants.
- Personal protection orders.
- Certain juvenile and child protective proceedings.
- Injunctive and emergency relief.
- Emergency pick-up order for mental health treatment.
- Emergency guardianship proceedings.

- Other time sensitive matters related to a protected individual, emergency petitions filed by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and petitions for immediate funeral/burial arrangements, among others.

### **8th Circuit Court (Ionia County) and Ionia County Probate Court**

<https://ioniacounty.org/courts/circuit-court/civil-criminal-cases/>

(Last updated March 17, 2020)

All Ionia county buildings and non-essential departments services will be closed effective March 18, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. through April 5, 2020.

Normal operations and office hours will resume on Monday, April 6, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

### **9th Circuit Court (Kalamazoo County) and Kalamazoo County Probate Court**

<https://www.kalcounty.com/userfiles/courts/news/PUBLIC%20STATEMENTS.pdf>

(Last updated March 16, 2020)

Business offices and courtrooms closed until April 10, 2020.

Non-emergency matters will be rescheduled or adjourned by the court with notice provided.

#### **Civil Proceedings (Trial and Family):**

Civil jury trials scheduled to take place before April 30 will be rescheduled.

Civil bench trials scheduled to take place before April 30 will be rescheduled.

Motion hearings in all general civil cases scheduled to take place before April 30 will be rescheduled.

#### **Criminal Proceedings:**

Arraignments, pretrial conferences, motions, settlement conferences and bench trials of non-custody defendants will be adjourned to a date no earlier than April 13.

Arraignments of in-custody defendants will proceed as scheduled using remote technology.

Pretrial conferences, settlement conference and bench trials of in-custody defendants will either be addressed using remote technology, adjourned or scheduled to a date no earlier than April 13.

Jury trials for non-custody and in-custody defendants will be adjourned or scheduled to a date no earlier than April 13.

Financial show cause hearings scheduled to take place before April 30 will be rescheduled.

Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) probation violation hearings for non-custody defendants will be adjourned or scheduled to a date no earlier than April 13.

MDOC probation violation hearings for in-custody defendants will be addressed using remote technology, adjourned or scheduled to a date no earlier than April 13.

Defendants are required to stay in contact with their attorney during this period, and to provide updated addresses and phone numbers to their attorney.

Probate Court:

<https://www.kalcounty.com/courts/probate/> (Last updated March 13, 2020)

Probate court will be closed until April 13, 2020.

Court will only accept emergency filing and only conduct emergency hearings from March 17, 2020 through April 10, 2020.

Non-emergency hearings will be rescheduled.

**10th Circuit Court (Saginaw County) and Saginaw County Probate Court**

<https://www.saginawcounty.com/Court%20System%20Response%20to%20The%20Coronavirus-2.pdf>

Trial courts *will remain open* until further notice. *However:*

- All hearings with vulnerable persons may be adjourned.
- Any civil case may be adjourned upon the request of any party.
- All jury trials in all courts will be adjourned until April 13, 2020.

All non-custody Friend of the Court show cause hearings, settlement conferences and custody/parenting time investigations will be adjourned and rescheduled beginning in May 2020.

Friend of the Court referee hearings will remain as scheduled; parties may choose to appear by telephone or may request an adjournment by calling 989-790-5300.

Probate conferences with the probate registrar may be held by telephone by calling 989-790-5323 and speaking to Terry Beagle.

Family Division show cause hearings will be adjourned and rescheduled for May 2020.

Family Division delinquency and abuse/neglect matters will remain as scheduled; parties may choose to appear by telephone or may request an adjournment by calling 989-799-2821.

All Family Division hearings with vulnerable persons may be adjourned/postponed upon request. The request must be initiated by or on behalf of the vulnerable person by calling 989-799-2821.

Criminal defendants not in custody may have hearings adjourned upon request. The request must be initiated by or on behalf of the party making the request.

**11th Circuit Court (Mackinac County) and Mackinac County Probate Court**

<https://www.mackinacounty.net/>



The courthouse will be closed to the public until April 13, 2020.

Probate and Family Division will not be scheduling court for anything except emergency situations.

### **12th Circuit Court (Houghton County) and Houghton County Probate Court**

<http://www.houghtoncounty.net/pictorials/112.pdf>

**(March 19, 2020)**

The court is closed to public except for essential functions involving health and safety and Constitutional rights. Essential functions include:

- Arraignments for in-custody defendants.
- Review and determination of requests for search warrants and personal protection orders.
- Certain child protective proceedings.
- Critical issues regarding child support and child custody.
- Other functions specified in AO 2020-2.

### **13th Circuit Court (Grand Traverse County) and Grand Traverse County Probate Court**

<http://www.13thcircuitcourt.org/212/Clerks-Office-Circuit-Family-Court-Recor>

Effective March 17, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. until Monday, April 6, 2020 all county buildings will be closed to unscheduled public access. Court may provide essential services by phone and email.

County online update does not define essential services; *see* definition in AO 2020-2.

### **14th Circuit Court (Muskegon County) and Muskegon County Probate Court**

<https://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/AlertCenter.aspx?AID=Muskegon-County-Courts-Closure-Except-fo-49>

(Last updated March 24, 2020)

The court is closed except for essential functions which include, but are not limited to:

- Arraignments for in-custody defendants.
- Review and determination of requests for search warrants and personal protection orders.
- Juvenile delinquency apprehension and detainment hearings.
- Emergency removal child protective proceedings.
- Emergency child custody issues necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of the litigants and/or children.

All other hearings have been canceled and will be rescheduled at a later date.

### **15th Circuit Court (Branch County) and Branch County Probate Court**

<https://www.countyofbranch.com/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2020/03/PRESS-RELEASE-Branch-County.pdf>

(Last updated March 17, 2020)

The court will be closed to the public until Monday, April 6, 2020. All employees will continue to report to work and can provide services through phone or email communications.

All jury trials during this time period have been adjourned and the March jury panels for circuit court, probate court and district court have been dismissed and will not have to report.

**16th Circuit Court (Macomb County) and Macomb County Probate Court**

<https://circuitcourt.macombgov.org/corona>

(Last Updated March 17, 2020)

**Civil Proceedings:**

All court hearings and trials between effective date and April 3 must be conducted remotely or adjourned.

**Criminal Proceedings:**

Arraignments on the information for in-custody defendants will be conducted by the chief judge and one designee remotely.

All trials between the effective date and April 3 are adjourned.

For in-custody defendants only, probation violation arraignments, bench warrant arraignments and sentencing will be conducted. If not in custody, they are adjourned.

Criminal proceeding will be temporarily closed to anyone except interested parties.

All other criminal matters, including all matters where the defendant is not in custody, are adjourned.

**Probate Court:**

Will only conduct emergency hearings until April 3, 2020; all other currently scheduled hearings except mental health dockets will be adjourned.

Emergency filings accepted after effective date are the following:

- Mental health pick-up/transport orders.
- Other mental health petitions, including petitions for hospitalization.
- Petitions for immediate funeral/burial arrangements.
- Guardianships involving life-threatening medical emergencies.
- Conservatorship with immediate pending evictions/foreclosure/shut off notices.
- Estates where immediate access to a residence is necessary.
- Requests for ex parte temporary restraining orders.
- Emergency petitions filed by Adult Protective Services.

## **17th Circuit Court (Kent County) and Kent County Probate Court**

<https://www.accesskent.com/Courts/17thcc/>

Clarifying announcement:

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/membercentralcdn/sitedocuments/grba/grba/0819/1645819.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAIHKD6NT2OL2HNPMQ&Expires=1585241122&Signature=a4pwGoKSn%2FgwgU7p8HYKpOD23ok%3D&response-content-disposition=inline%3B%20filename%3D%2220200326095744235%2Epdf%22%3B%20filename%2A%3DUTF%2D8%27%2720200326095744235%252Epdf>

Effective from now until April 13, 2020:

### **Civil and Criminal Division:**

All status conferences, sentences and trials will be adjourned until after April 14.

Only emergency in-custody hearings will be heard during this time (via PolyCom video conferencing).

Civil motions will need to be addressed with each judge's office (but no public hearings will be held).

### **For Essential Hearings (as defined in AO 2020-2):**

Hearings will be held via telephone or video conference.

In extremely limited circumstances, a hearing will be held in person with less than 10 people in the courtroom.

### **For Non-Essential Hearings:**

The court may issue an order based on the pleadings (no oral argument), adjourn the hearing or hold the hearing over the telephone.

### **For Jury Trials or Trials Requiring Witnesses to Testify:**

Jury trials are postponed indefinitely.

### **Probate Court:**

There will be no in-person assistance available at the probate court clerk's office during this time. However, general inquiries, requests for hearing dates and requests for assistance may be directed to [probatecourt@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:probatecourt@kentcountymi.gov). Questions or requests for assistance regarding mental health matters may be directed to [mentalhealthdivision@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:mentalhealthdivision@kentcountymi.gov).

## **18th Circuit Court (Bay County) and Bay County Probate Court**

<https://www.baycounty-mi.gov/Docs/COVID19/2020-02-LAO-Court%20Clousures%20for%20Public%20Health%20Emergency.pdf>

(Last updated March 23, 2020)

Pursuant to Michigan Supreme Court AO 2020-2, Bay County courts are closed to the public.

Mail all filings to the court.

Drop off filings at the front door only Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. No access to building allowed.

Clerk access via telephone will be reduced to 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. weekdays.

In-custody arraignments (attorneys only) will be conducted on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Accommodation of personal protection orders and any emergency matters will be maintained.

Emergency motions on any matter, including show cause and injunctive order requests, as determined by the judge.

Whenever possible, hearings will be conducted using available technology. Only the following individuals shall be permitted to enter the court if necessary:

- Parties and essential case participants to hearings referenced above.
- Parents of in-custody juveniles for hearings referenced above.
- Parties' counsel for the hearings referenced above.
- Judges, referees, judicial staff, sheriff deputies, deputy administrators and administrator of county courts.
- Essential court and county staff.
- Essential law enforcement.

### **19th Circuit Court (Manistee and Benzie Counties) and Manistee/Benzie Counties Probate Court**

#### **Manistee County**

[http://www.manisteecountymi.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=frontpage&Itemid=228](http://www.manisteecountymi.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=frontpage&Itemid=228)

(Last updated March 20, 2020)

Trial courts are ordered to limit access to courtrooms and other spaces to no more than 10 persons, including staff, and to practice social distancing and limit court activity to only essential functions. *See* AO 2020-02.

#### **Benzie County**

[http://www.benzieco.net/government/county\\_clerk\\_s\\_office/index.php](http://www.benzieco.net/government/county_clerk_s_office/index.php)

Benzie County clerk's office will be conducting business via email, telephone, U.S. mail and fax.

### **20th Circuit Court (Ottawa County) and Ottawa County Probate Court (Following AO 2020-3)**

<https://www.miottawa.org/courts/20thcircuit/>

For hearings and trials scheduled before April 13, 2020 contact the court to confirm status.

No further hearings or trials scheduled except as it relates to the essential matters below.

Still open for essential operations:

Civil matters:

Court will conduct:

- Emergency show cause and injunctive orders.
- Business court emergencies.
- Infectious disease cases.
- Initiation of personal protection orders (PPOs).
- Hearings on denied PPOs.
- Arraignments on alleged violations of PPOs.
- Hearings for PPO respondents not able to make bail following an arraignment.
- Parental waivers.
- Motions to terminate PPOs.
- Approving and/or hearing emergency hearings at the discretion of the assigned judge.
- The signing or preparing of any emergency orders necessary for the safety and well-being of a litigant or child, at the discretion of the assigned judge.

**Business court matters non-essential matters are NOT adjourned. Business court (Van Allsburg) will continue to conduct non-emergency matters, including conferences, hearings and trials via video conferencing.**

Family Division:

Court will conduct:

- Emergency proceedings for abuse/neglect cases.
- Preliminary hearings, scheduled trials and disposition hearings for detained youth.
- Waiver hearings for youth to be charged as or with the rights attributed to an adult.
- Hearings on matters at the discretion of the assigned judge.
- Domestic relations proceedings heard in Grand Haven and West Olive:
  - The signing or preparing of any emergency orders necessary for the safety and well-being of a litigant or child, at the discretion of the assigned judge.
  - Hearings on matters at the discretion of the assigned judge.

Probate Court:

Probate pleadings may be filed electronically via MIFILE, including:

- Emergency proceedings for decedent estates, trusts and wills.
- Emergency proceedings for guardianships and conservatorships.
- Emergency proceedings for mental illness and judicial admission proceedings.

- Hearings on matters at the discretion of the assigned judge.
- If you have probate issue needing immediate attention, please contact the court to schedule a hearing at 616-768-4110.

**21st Circuit Court (Isabella County) and Isabella County Probate Court**

<https://www.isabellacounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Press-Release-COVID-19-3-19-20.pdf>

(Last updated March 19, 2020)

Courts are closed to the public until April 6, 2020. Limited essential services will be conducted on an as-needed basis.

**22nd Circuit Court (Washtenaw County) and Washtenaw County Probate Court**

<https://www.washtenaw.org/AlertCenter.aspx?AID=Press-release-from-the-Washtenaw-County--300>

(Last Updated March 16,2020)

Court activities suspended until April 6, 2020.

Court will only hold hearings in only the most urgent matters, including:

- When a person’s liberty interests are at stake.
- Bond hearings and preliminary examinations for in-custody defendants will continue to take place.
- Petitions for personal protection orders will still be processed.
- Violations will be addressed.
- Child abuse and neglect will still be addressed, as well as emergency hearings.

Court will use all technology at our disposal for video and audio conferencing to limit exposure.

In all other cases, we will adjourn and reschedule matters to dates after April 6, 2020.

**23rd Circuit Court (Alcona County) and Alcona County Probate Court**

<https://alconacountymi.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Order-2-COVID-19-signed.pdf>

(Last Updated March 17, 2020)

Courthouse is closed to the public until April 3, 2020.

Essential staff as deemed in the governor's order will remain.

Essential operations will remain open, including:

- Initiation of personal protection orders (PPOs).
- Requested hearings on denied PPOs.

Motions to terminate PPOs should be filed via the trial court drop box located in the courthouse entranceway, via email to [alconatrialcourts@alcona-county.net](mailto:alconatrialcourts@alcona-county.net) or via fax to circuit court at 989-724-9419.

Emergency child protective proceedings should be filed via the trial court drop box located in the courthouse entranceway, via email to [alconatrialcourts@alcona-county.net](mailto:alconatrialcourts@alcona-county.net) or via fax to circuit court at 989-724-9419.

Emergency proceedings for decedent estates, trusts and wills, emergency proceedings for guardianships and conservatorships, and emergency proceedings for mental illness and judicial admission proceedings (involuntary commitment) should be filed via the trial Ccourt drop box located in the courthouse entranceway, via email to [alconatrialcourts@alcona-county.net](mailto:alconatrialcourts@alcona-county.net) or via fax to probate court at 989-724-9499.

All emergency motions, including requests for ex parte orders, waiver hearings, emergency show cause orders, injunctive orders, emergency bond motions and other motions with emergent requests should be filed via the trial court drop box located in the courthouse entranceway, via email to [alconatrialcourts@alcona-county.net](mailto:alconatrialcourts@alcona-county.net) or via fax to the respective court.

#### **24th Circuit Court (Sanilac County) and Sanilac County Probate Court**

No order posted.

#### **25th Circuit Court (Marquette County) and Marquette County Probate Court**

No order posted.

#### **26th Circuit Court (Alpena County) and Alpena County Probate Court**

No order posted.

#### **27th Circuit Court (Newaygo County) and Newaygo County Probate Court**

<http://www.countyofnewaygo.com/Resources/Welcome/Newaygo%20County%20Courts%20Local%20Administrative%20Order.pdf>

(Last updated March 17, 2020)

Closed until April 5, 20 except for essential services.

#### **Criminal Matters:**

In-custody defendants will be reviewed on a daily basis and arraigned for both 27th Circuit and 78th District Court. Attorneys will be contacted as needed.

Trials and sentencing for in-custody defendants as needed.

#### **Civil Matters:**

Court will conduct:

- Emergency show cause hearings

- Injunctive orders
- Infectious diseases cases
- Personal protection orders (initiating cases, hearings for denied PPO, motions to terminate PPO and arraignments on alleged PPOs)
- Hearings for respondents unable to bail out after arraignment
- Parental consent waivers
- Signing/preparing for any emergency orders

Probate Court:

Continues to provide emergency proceedings for decedent estates, trusts, wills, guardianships, conservatorships, mental illness and judicial admission proceedings.

**28th Circuit Court (Missaukee County) and Missaukee County Probate Court**

No order posted.

**29th Circuit Court (Clinton County) and Clinton County Probate Court**

<https://www.clinton-county.org/DocumentCenter/View/6073/Twenty-Ninth-Judicial-Circuit-of-Michigan-Covid-19>

All other proceedings suspended until April 6, 2020

Circuit Court:

The Court shall conduct:

- Arraignments on the information for incarcerated adults.
- Emergency bond motions.
- Proceedings related to the arraignments on bench warrants and on probationers arrested on warrants for violations of probation.
- Trials for incarcerated defendants only.
- The court shall hear scheduled sentencings for in-custody defendants.
- Review hearings will only be held if deemed necessary by the assigned judge.
- Monitoring shall be conducted by telephone or video conferencing unless the participant is otherwise notified.
- If the assigned judge proceeds with motion days, they shall proceed on a staggered basis. Please call the assigned judge to confirm the hearing date and time.
- Initiation of personal protection orders (PPOs).
- Hearings on denied PPOs.
- Arraignments on alleged violations of PPOs.
- Hearings for PPO respondents not able to make bail following an arraignment.
- Parental waivers.
- Approving and/or hearing emergency hearings as are deemed necessary by the assigned judge.



- The signing or preparing of emergency orders necessary for the safety and well-being of a litigant or child at the discretion of the assigned judge.
- Requests for emergency show cause and injunctive orders.
- The court shall hear emergency petitions for conservatorships, protective orders and/or guardianships.
- The court will continue mental health hearings and requests for pick-up orders.
- Requests for emergency show cause and injunctive orders.

### **30th Circuit Court (Ingham County) and Ingham Probate Court**

<https://cc.ingham.org/Emergency%20Electronic%20Filing%20and%20Service.pdf>

(Last updated March 16, 2020)

Court has not issued an order but references AO 2020-2. Court provides for emergency electronic filing and service.

### **31st Circuit Court (St. Clair County) and St. Clair County Probate Court**

<http://www.stclaircounty.org/Main/forms/Status%20of%20Current%20Operations.pdf>

(Last updated March 23, 2020)

Closed to all non-essential services until further notice.

#### Circuit Court:

Court will conduct:

- In-custody arraignments.
- To the extent possible, previously scheduled in-custody hearings.
- Non-custodial criminal matters will be heard at the discretion of each individual judge; please contact the judge's clerk for further direction.
- The initiation of personal protection orders (PPOs).
- Hearings on denied PPOs and violation of PPOs.
- Emergency bond motions.
- Emergency domestic motions.
- Requests for emergency show cause and injunctive orders.
- Infectious disease cases.
- Hearings on emergency matters at the discretion of the judge.

#### Probate Court:

Court will conduct:

- Emergency mental health hearings and petitions for pick-up orders.
- Emergency proceedings for guardianships and conservatorships.
- Emergency orders and/or hearings on warning notices pursuant to MCL 333.5203.

- Hearings on emergency matters at the discretion of the judge.

### **32nd Circuit Court (Gogebic County) and Gogebic County Probate Court**

<https://www.gogebiccountymi.gov/covid-courtresponse2.pdf>

(Dated March 19, 2020)

Closed until April 3, 2020 unless activity is an essential function as described in AO 2020-2, including matters involving in-custody persons, limited PPO proceedings and other emergency matters.

All other matters by will be conducted via video-conferencing.

### **33rd Circuit Court (Charlevoix County) and Charlevoix County Probate Court**

<http://cms2.revize.com/revize/charlevoixcounty/Media%20Release%20Ct%20Operations%2003.19.2020.pdf>

(Last updated March 19, 2020)

Courts closed until April 10, 2020.

Court will process emergency matters and conduct emergency hearings to be accomplished using electronic communications as much as possible.

Personal protection order petitions or motions for ex parte relief need to be filed in the county clerk's office before the court can take any action.

Please call 231-547-7243 and leave a message or email [circuitcourt@charlevoixcounty.org](mailto:circuitcourt@charlevoixcounty.org) with additional questions.

### **34th Circuit Court (Roscommon County) and Roscommon County Probate Courts**

<https://www.roscommoncounty.net/DocumentCenter/View/1333/Roscommon-County-COVID-19-Emergency-Operation-Plan>

Restricted access through April 6, 2020.

#### Circuit Court:

Non-emergency matters will be adjourned to a later date.

All jury trials are adjourned during the closure and rescheduled for a future date.

Emergency hearings will be by video conference or telephone when possible.

Court will conduct:

- Bench warrant arraignments as required.
- Review of request by a party for an ex parte order on a case-by-case basis to determine if an ex parte personal protection order (PPO) is warranted.
- Review and determination of emergency request to extend a PPO pursuant to statute.

- Arraignments on alleged PPO violations when the defendant is in custody.
- Signing or preparing emergency orders that may be necessary for the safety and well-being of a litigant or child.
- Safe delivery of newborn child/waiver of parental consent.

Probate Court:

Emergency proceedings with hearings on a case by case basis, including:

- Involuntary mental health treatment petitions.
- Review petitions for emergency hearings in guardianship and conservatorship matters.
- Review any other petition for temporary/emergency relief.

Emergency filings must be made by either using the drop box at the Roscommon County Municipal Building, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., or via e-mail in pdf format to [probatecourt@roscommoncounty.net](mailto:probatecourt@roscommoncounty.net)

**35th Circuit Court (Shiawassee County) and Shiawassee County Probate Court**

(Dated March 17,2020 but has been updated)

Closed through April 13, 2020.

Criminal and Civil Matters:

Court is handling essential criminal matters. Essential matters include criminal and emergency situations.

All civil and domestic emergency motions, petitions for personal protection orders and motions to show cause for violation of personal protection orders can be filed by email at [CIRClerkfile@shiawassee.net](mailto:CIRClerkfile@shiawassee.net) (Circuit Court only).

Probate Court:

Emergency filings should be filed by fax to 989-743-2349. For emergency questions, call 989-743-2211.

All other matters shall wait to be filed until Shiawassee County courts reopen.

**36th Circuit Court (Van Buren County) and Van Buren County Probate Court**

[https://www.vbco.org/downloads/vbc0026\\_plan\\_policy\\_covid\\_19\\_emergency\\_operations\\_plan\\_032420.pdf](https://www.vbco.org/downloads/vbc0026_plan_policy_covid_19_emergency_operations_plan_032420.pdf)

(Last updated March 24, 2020)

Court closed until April 13, 2020 except for essential functions.

All non-essential matters scheduled must be handled remotely or will be adjourned to a later date.

The court will continue to accept filings using means other than in-person filing. This includes filing by mail, email, fax or using the payment drop box near the entry of the court facility.

All jury trials are adjourned during the period noted in this plan and will be rescheduled in the future.

#### Criminal Matters:

Criminal matters for in-custody defendants.

Non-custody matters will be adjourned. To request remote hearing for non-custody matters, contact the court.

Arraignments and pleas: The court will process these proceedings on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Court to schedule.

Sentencings, pretrials and final pretrials will be held on Mondays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Court to schedule.

Final pretrials will be held on Fridays at 1:00 p.m. Court to schedule.

#### Civil Matters and Domestic Matters:

Emergency motions: The court will entertain emergency motions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Court to schedule.

#### Probate Court

The court will entertain emergency motions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Examples of emergency proceedings include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Mental health pick-up/transport orders.
- Other mental health petitions, including petitions for hospitalization.
- Petitions for immediate funeral/burial arrangements/guardianships involving life-threatening medical emergencies or conservatorships with immediate pending evictions/foreclosures/shut off notices.
- Estates where immediate access to residence is necessary.
- Requests for ex parte temporary restraining orders emergency petitions filed by Adult Protective Services and Child Protective Services.

#### **37th Circuit Court (Calhoun County) and Calhoun County Probate Court**

<https://www.calhouncountymi.gov/departments/courts/index.php>

<https://cms5.revize.com/revize/calhouncountymi/Administrative%20Services/Communications/20200316155334.pdf>

(Court order posted March 16, 2020; last updated March 23, 2020)

Civil Matters:

The court will review requests for emergency show case and injunctive orders.

Criminal Matters:

Matters will be conducted via video conferencing where practicable.

The court will conduct arraignments for incarcerated defendants.

The court will review all requests for the authorization of new criminal charges, including arrest warrants.

The court will review all requests for search warrants.

The court may hold circuit court status conferences for in-custody defendants if the prosecution and defendant counsel are able to appear.

The court will adjourn all scheduled sentencings but may review bond conditions for in-custody defendants.

The court will adjourn all scheduled preliminary examinations but may review bond conditions for all in-custody defendants.

Family Court:

The court will hear emergency proceedings for child protective cases.

The court will conduct the initial preliminary hearing pursuant to court rules for detained juvenile via video conferencing.

Any adjourned preliminary hearing will be scheduled for a date following the reopening of the Calhoun County courts.

The court will review any request by a party for an emergency hearing. Pleadings will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine if an emergency hearing is warranted.

The court will review new requests for personal protection orders.

The court will hear parental waiver cases.

The court may sign or prepare emergency orders that may be necessary for the well-being of a litigant or child, at the discretion of the assigned judge.

Probate Court:

The court will hear involuntary mental health treatment petitions.

The court will review petitions for emergency hearings in adult/minor guardianship and conservatorship matters, and determine on a case-by-case basis whether an emergency hearing is warranted.

The court will review any other petition for temporary/emergency relief (such as temporary restraining orders, etc.) and determine on a case-by-case basis whether an emergency hearing is warranted.

### **38th Circuit Court (Monroe County) and Monroe County Probate Court**

<https://cms.revize.com/revize/monroecounty/District%20Court/OrdersDirectives/Circuit%20&%20District%20Court%20Closure%20due%20to%20COVID-19.pdf>

(Last updated March 19, 2020)

Closed to the public through April 10, 2020.

#### **Criminal Matters:**

Bench warrant arraignments will be held Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Emergency motions as noted below.

#### **Civil Matters:**

Emergency hearings will be conducted as follows:

- Circuit Court: Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Only essential parties allowed

For emergencies, call circuit court at 734-240-7037.

#### **Probate Court:**

[https://www.co.monroe.mi.us/courts\\_of\\_monroe/probate\\_family\\_court/index.php](https://www.co.monroe.mi.us/courts_of_monroe/probate_family_court/index.php)

Court closed until April 3, 2020.

Court will conduct proceedings regarding involuntary mental health treatment under Chapter 4 of the Mental Health Code including the following:

- Pick-up and transportation orders pursuant to MCL 330.1436.
- Petitions for initial or continuing involuntary hospitalization pursuant to MCL 330.1472a.
- Petitions for immediate funeral and burial arrangements pursuant to MCL 700.3206 and 700.3614.
- Emergency petitions filed by Adult Protective Services under MCL 400.11b(6).
- Emergency petitions for guardianship pursuant to MCL 700.5312.
- Emergency conservatorship and other protective orders pursuant to MCL 700.5407 in those cases with immediate pending evictions/foreclosures/shut off notices.
- Estates where immediate access to a residence is necessary under MCL 700.5407.
- Ex parte requests for temporary restraining orders.

With regard to proceedings involving mental health and guardianship matters, the court shall permit the use of video technology unless a health and safety issue requires an in-person appearance.

All other probate court matters must be conducted remotely using two-way interactive video technology or other remote participation tools, or they must be adjourned until after April 3, 2020.

Other emergency motions may be held with the discretion and approval of the chief probate judge.

### **39th Circuit Court (Lenawee County) and Lenawee County Probate Court**

<http://www.lenawee.mi.us/DocumentCenter/View/5508/3-19-20-Court-Closure-Press-Release?bidId=>

Judicial building closed to the public until April 18, 2020 unless otherwise ordered.

Documents may be delivered via the secure drop box in the lobby.

Emergency matters including arraignments for in-custody defendants (adult and juvenile), review and determination of requests for search warrants and personal protection orders, certain child protective proceedings, critical issues regarding child support and child custody, and emergency juvenile proceedings will be handled by the courts, among other matters referenced in AO 2020-2.

### **40th Circuit Court (Lapeer County) and Lapeer County Probate Court**

[http://lapeercountyweb.org/images/Courts/Press\\_Release.pdf](http://lapeercountyweb.org/images/Courts/Press_Release.pdf)

No order, but court announcement cites AO 2020-2.

### **41-1 Circuit Court (Dickinson County) and Dickinson County Probate Court**

<https://www.ironmountaindailynews.com/news/local-news/2020/03/dickinson-county-sets-safety-protocols-for-courthouse/>

(Last updated March 14, 2020)

No order; all civil and criminal jury trials adjourned through April 10, 2020.

### **41-2 Circuit Court (Iron County) and Iron County Probate Court**

<https://ironmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Iron-County-Courthouse-Restricted-Access-to-Public.pdf>

Access to the courthouse is restricted through April 14, 2020.

No order posted.

### **41-3 Circuit Court (Menominee County) and Menominee County Probate Court**

<https://www.menomineecounty.com/alerts/?i=f75f340bc8a7>

Access to the courthouse is restricted until April 5, 2020. Those with essential in-person business with any department in the courthouse should call and make an appointment.

No orders.

### **42nd Circuit Court (Midland County) and Midland County Probate Court**

<https://co.midland.mi.us/Courts/42ndCircuitCourt/DivorcePackets.aspx>

No order posted in circuit or probate court.

Divorce court taking divorce packets by appointment only.

### **43rd Circuit Court (Cass County) and Cass County Probate Court**

<https://www.casscountymi.org/AlertCenter.aspx?AID=Cass-County-Building-and-Law-Courts-Buil-16>

Court building closed until March 26, 2020 (last updated March 20).

No orders posted.

### **44th Circuit Court (Livingston County) and Livingston County Probate Court**

<https://www.livgov.com/courts/Documents/Livingston-County-Trial-Courts-Open-for-Limited-Purpose-LAO.pdf>

(Last updated March 16, 2020)

Court building open for essential services only through April 5, 2020. In-person paper filings are not permitted; essential filings must be made by email, fax or U.S. mail. A drop box at the entrance of the judicial center is for essential filings only.

When possible, emergency hearings will be conducted using Zoom.

Court order references AO 2020-1.

#### **Circuit Court:**

Court will conduct:

- In-custody arraignments
- To the extent possible, previously scheduled in-custody hearings.
- The initiation of personal protection orders (PPOs).
- Hearings on denied PPOs and violations of PPOs.
- Emergency bond motions.
- Requests for emergency show cause and injunctive orders.
- Infectious disease cases.
- Hearings on emergency matters at the discretion of the chief judge.



Probate Court:

Court will conduct:

- Emergency mental health hearings and petitions for pick-up orders.
- Emergency proceedings for guardianships and conservatorships.
- Emergency orders and/or hearings on warning notices pursuant to MCL 333.5203.
- Hearings on emergency matters at the discretion of the chief judge.

**45th Circuit Court (St. Joseph County) and St. Joseph County Probate Court**

[http://www.stjosephcountymi.org/forms/2020\\_courtscovid19.pdf](http://www.stjosephcountymi.org/forms/2020_courtscovid19.pdf)

(Last updated March 17, 2020)

All courts closed except for emergency proceedings. Parties should not come to the court except for emergency matters.

Civil Matters:

All civil jury trials adjourned to a date to be determined after May 1, 2020.

All civil infraction and traffic hearings adjourned to a date to be determined after May 1, 2020.

All civil matters, with the exception of emergency matters as determined by the presiding judge, adjourned to a date to be determined after May 1, 2020.

Criminal Matters

All criminal jury trials adjourned to a date to be determined after May 1, 2020.

All criminal pretrials are adjourned to a date to be determined after May 1, 2020.

All probation appointments shall be conducted by telephone.

Court will continue to arraign and process in felony in-custody criminal matters and, if possible, will adjourn these matters to a date to be determined after May 1, 2020.

Family Court:

All matters, except for emergency matters as determined by the presiding judge, adjourned to a date to be determined after May 1, 2020.

Probate Matters:

All probate matters previously scheduled, except for emergency matters as determined by the presiding judge, adjourned to a date to be determined until after May 1, 2020.

**46-1 Circuit Court (Crawford County) and Crawford County Probate Court**

<https://www.crawfordco.org/offices-departments/board-of-commissioners/coronavirus-update/>

County buildings, including courts, are closed to the public. Announcement notes that county will attempt to conduct specific court services.

No order posted.

#### **46-2 Circuit Court (Kalkaska County) and Kalkaska County Probate Court**

<https://www.circuit46.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Public-Notice.pdf>

(Last updated March 18, 2020)

Courts are closed to the public through April 3, 2020.

No specific order; courts will follow AO 2020-2 for emergency operations.

#### **46-3 Circuit Court (Otsego County) and Otsego County Probate Court**

<https://www.otsegocountymi.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Press-Release-Court-Closure-Due-to-State-of-Emergency.pdf>

(Last updated March 16, 2020)

Court closed to walk-in business through May 3, 2020. All procedures listed are effective through May 4, 2020 and will be rescheduled on a case-by-case basis. Court is staffed for emergency services only.

##### Civil Matters:

The court will review requests for emergency show cause and injunctive orders.

##### Criminal Matters:

Court will conduct arraignments for in-custody defendants.

Court will review all requests for authorization of new criminal charges, including the finding of probable cause for arrest warrants.

Court may hold circuit court status conferences for in-custody defendants if prosecution and defense counsel are able to appear.

Court will adjourn all scheduled sentencings but may review bond conditions for all in-custody defendants.

Court will adjourn all scheduled preliminary examinations but may review bond conditions for in-custody defendants.

##### Probate and Family Court:

Court will hear involuntary mental health treatment petitions.

Court will review petitions for emergency hearings in adult/minor guardianship and conservatorship matters to determine on a case-by-case basis whether an emergency hearing is warranted and then proceed accordingly.

The court will review any other petition for temporary/emergency relief (such as temporary restraining orders) to determine on a case-by-case basis whether an emergency hearing is warranted and then proceed accordingly.

**47th Circuit Court (Delta County) and Delta County Probate Court**

<https://deltacountymi.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Court-Closure-For-Public-Health-Emergency.pdf>

(Last updated March 17, 2020)

Courts are closed to the public through April 3, 2020. All emergency matters will be conducted.

Civil Matters:

All civil trials will be adjourned.

Most civil hearings will be adjourned.

Courts will notify parties if video conferencing may be used to conduct scheduled business. Some matters may not be rescheduled until the health emergency has passed.

Criminal Matters:

All criminal trials and adjudications are adjourned unless the defendant is in custody or there have been long delays.

Family Court:

Emergency matters only.

Probate Court:

Emergency matters only.

**48th Circuit Court (Allegan County) and Allegan County Probate Court**

<http://cms.allegancounty.org/sites/office/cc/SitePages/Home.aspx#.XnzKwepKiM8>

No order; county website refers to AO 2020-2.

**49th Circuit Court (Mecosta/Osceola Counties) and Mecosta/Osceola Probate Court**

<http://www.mecostacounty.org/PDFs/Courts-COVID-19.pdf>

(Last updated March 17, 2020)

Courts are closed through Friday April 3, 2020.

Court requests that paperwork be faxed or emailed.

Civil Matters:

All jury trials are adjourned to a future date to be determined.

Motions will be heard via telephone conference only, with attorneys making arrangements for the calls.

Court will continue to receive personal protection order (PPO) petitions, decide ex parte petitions and hold hearings the court deems necessary regarding motions to terminate or modify, show cause, contempt hearings and requests for PPOs.

#### Criminal Matters:

Hearings for defendants not in custody are postponed or will be handled via teleconference.

#### Family Court:

All domestic relations cases are adjourned to a future date.

The following hearings will still be held:

- Abuse and neglect pick-up hearings
- Required delinquency hearings
- Personal protection orders
- Ex parte custody matters and public health matters will be held

Court will decide when and if other matters to be heard if it is possible to hold the hearings via teleconferencing.

In-person civil hearings will be adjourned, including but not limited to:

- Support
- Abuse and neglect
- Custody
- Parenting time
- Delinquency cases

Non-emergency filings may be submitted by mail. Emergency filings may be faxed to 231-592-0191 (Mecosta) or 231-832-6181 (Osceola), or by email to [familyct@mecostacounty.org](mailto:familyct@mecostacounty.org) or [familyct@osceolacountymi.com](mailto:familyct@osceolacountymi.com). Payments will be accepted via mail; those failing to make timely payments will not be penalized while the order is in effect.

#### Probate Court:

Mental health commitments, emergency guardianships and certain other emergency matters will continue.

Other hearings may be held by teleconference at the discretion of the probate judge.

Non-emergency filings may be submitted by mail. Emergency filings may be faxed to 231-592-0191 (Mecosta) or 231-832-6181 (Osceola), or by email to [probatect@mecostacounty.org](mailto:probatect@mecostacounty.org) or [dhansen@co.osceola.mi.us](mailto:dhansen@co.osceola.mi.us).

### **50th Circuit Court (Chippewa County) and Chippewa County Probate Court**

[https://0073b949-8fe4-4c85-862e-0e2dfa28f890.filesusr.com/ugd/f7b3c3\\_567be0f426ad4a31946ac9844250b365.pdf](https://0073b949-8fe4-4c85-862e-0e2dfa28f890.filesusr.com/ugd/f7b3c3_567be0f426ad4a31946ac9844250b365.pdf)

County buildings are closed to the public through April 13, 2020.

No order; court posted announcement asking people to contact the court with questions and advising that most business can be conducted by telephone or mail.

### **51st Circuit Court (Mason County) and Mason County Probate Court**

<http://www.masoncounty.net/courts/mctc-covid-19-notice.html>

All courts closed to the public through at least April 13, 2020.

No order; however, court has announced the following:

- All non-essential matters will be adjourned.
- Measures will be taken when possible to use video or telephonic communications for essential hearings.
- Litigants should contact the court if they have questions about upcoming hearings.

### **52nd Circuit Court (Huron County) and Huron County Probate Court**

<https://www.co.huron.mi.us/circuit-court>

Court is closed until at least April 14, 2020.

No order posted. Court had previously adjourned matters until Friday, April 3, 2020. Motions scheduled for April 3 are now adjourned until Friday, May 1, 2020 with notice being sent in the mail. Matters scheduled for Monday, April 6, 2020 have been adjourned until Tuesday, April 14, 2020.

### **53-1 Circuit Court (Cheboygan County) and Cheboygan County Probate Court**

[http://is0.gaslightmedia.com/cheboygancounty/\\_ORIGINAL\\_/fs79-1584732546-88487.pdf](http://is0.gaslightmedia.com/cheboygancounty/_ORIGINAL_/fs79-1584732546-88487.pdf)

(Last updated March 17, 2020)

Court is closed to the public until at least April 18, 2020.

Court responsible will notify parties of adjournment. Some matters may not be rescheduled until after health emergency has passed.

#### **Civil Matters:**

All civil trials are adjourned.

Most civil hearings are adjourned; use of telephone and video conferencing is permitted.

Criminal Matters:

All criminal trials and sentencings are adjourned unless the defendant is in custody or there have been long delays.

Most civil hearings are adjourned; use of telephone and video conferencing is permitted.

Family Court:

Open for emergency matters; use of telephone and video conferencing system is permitted for non-emergency matters.

Personal protection orders and emergency filings related to child protective proceedings will be conducted.

Probate Court:

Open for emergency matters; use of telephone and video conferencing system is permitted for non-emergency matters.

**53-2 Circuit Court (Presque Isle County) and Presque Isle County Probate Court**

<http://presqueislecounty.org/2020%20Ads/Press%20Release.pdf>

(Last updated March 23, 2020)

No order posted; press release notes that courts remain closed to the public subject to the AO 2020-21.

**54th Circuit Court (Tuscola County) and Tuscola County Probate Court**

<https://www.tuscolacounty.org/courts/doc/circuit/Memorandum%20All.pdf>

(Last updated March 23, 2020)

Courthouse will be closed to the public and open for only emergency functions through April 13, 2020.

Emergency filings should be emailed to the following addresses:

- Circuit court and family court - [54CircuitCourt@tuscolacounty.org](mailto:54CircuitCourt@tuscolacounty.org)
- Probate court - [TuscolaProbate@tuscolacounty.org](mailto:TuscolaProbate@tuscolacounty.org)
- 71B District Court and magistrate – [71BDistrictCourt@tuscolacounty.org](mailto:71BDistrictCourt@tuscolacounty.org)

The courts may be contacted by telephone during business hours for emergency matters.

**55-1 Circuit Court (Clare County) and Gladwin/Clare Counties Probate Court**

No order posted for circuit court.

Probate and Family Court:

<http://www.clareco.net/sites/default/files/Web%20posting%20update%203-25-20.pdf>

Court continues to hold essential and emergency hearings. Parties may call the court regarding their hearings.

Documents may be filed via U.S. mail.

**55-2 Circuit Court (Gladwin County) and Gladwin/Clare Counties Probate Court**

<https://gladwincounty-mi.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Gladwin-County-Office-Closure-Update-Effective-03242020.pdf>

Circuit court issued no order; county announced on March 23 that courts will be open for essential services and emergency filings through April 13, 2020.

Probate and Family Court:

<http://www.clareco.net/sites/default/files/Web%20posting%20update%203-25-20.pdf>

Court continues to hold essential and emergency hearings. Parties may call the court regarding their hearings.

Documents may be filed via U.S. mail.

**56th Circuit Court (Eaton County) and Eaton County Probate Court**

<http://www.eatoncounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/3113/LAO-reduced-hours?bidId=>

(Last updated March 23, 2020)

Courts are closed to the public through April 13, 2020. Court offices will be open for essential services (as outlined in AO 2020-2) by appointment on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**57th Circuit Court (Emmet County) and Emmet County Probate Court**

[https://www.emmetcounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2020\\_03.23\\_UPDATE\\_emmet-county-building-closure.pdf](https://www.emmetcounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2020_03.23_UPDATE_emmet-county-building-closure.pdf)

<https://www.emmetcounty.org/courts-sheriff/57th-circuit-court/>

(Last updated March 23, 2020)

Courts are closed to the public until April 13, 2020 or until health officials determine it is safe to reopen.

Courts will continue to process emergency matters during the closure.

Probate Court:

<https://www.emmetcounty.org/courts-sheriff/7th-probate-court/>

Probate court will conduct emergency matters as outlined in AO 2020-2.

All emergency filings should be submitted electronically if possible, and all business will be conducted by telephone, fax or email.

If you are unable to file electronically, you may call the court at 231-348-1764.

## **MICHIGAN FEDERAL COURTS**

### **Eastern District of Michigan**

#### **Administrative Order 20-AO-024 (March 26, 2020)**

<http://www.mied.uscourts.gov/pdffiles/20AO024.pdf>

In the interest of reducing population density in Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) and detention facilities, the following procedures will govern motions to delay or extend dates for a defendant to self-report to a designated BOP facility, as well as motions to review detention orders:

- Before a motion to delay self-reporting or a motion to review a detention order is filed, counsel for the defendant must convene a conference with the assigned U.S. attorney to seek concurrence of relief requested.
- If no agreement is reached, a motion must be filed, and counsel should notify the assigned judge that the motion has been filed.
- Counsel for the defendant must simultaneously provide a copy of the motion to the assigned judge that the motion has been filed.
- The government must discharge its duty to notify crime victims when appropriate.
- The motion will be decided on the papers submitted, unless the assigned judge orders otherwise.

These procedures shall remain in effect until rescinded by the court.

#### **Administrative Order 20-AO-023 (March 20, 2020)**

<http://www.mied.uscourts.gov/pdffiles/20AO023.pdf>

All future misdemeanor ticket calls for the Eastern District are postponed. Misdemeanor ticket call currently scheduled for April 1, 2020 is cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date.

#### **Administrative Order 20-AO-021 (March 13, 2020)**

<http://www.mied.uscourts.gov/pdffiles/20AO021.pdf>

All civil and criminal matters scheduled for in-court appearance before any district or magistrate judge in the Eastern District of Michigan are postponed pending further order of the court. Questions concerning filing deadlines should be directed to the assigned judge.

All grand jury proceedings in this district are postponed pending further order of this court.

With regard to criminal matters, due to the court's reduced ability to obtain an adequate spectrum of jurors and the effect of the recommendations from the above public health organizations on



the availability of counsel and court staff to be present in the courtroom, the time period of the postponements implemented by this order will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, as the court specifically finds that the ends of justice served by ordering the postponements outweigh the best interest of the public and any defendant's right to a speedy trial, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 3161(h)(7)(A).

Case-by-case exceptions to the postponements may be ordered for non-jury matters at the discretion of the court after consultation with counsel.

Criminal matters before magistrate judges, such as initial appearances, arraignments, detention hearings (and appeals to district judges from detention orders) and the issuance of search warrants shall continue to take place in the ordinary course.

This order does not affect the court's consideration of civil or criminal motions that can be resolved without oral argument or handled by telephone or video conference.

This order will remain in effect until further order of the court.

#### **Administrative Order 20-AO-020 (March 11, 2020)**

<http://www.mied.uscourts.gov/pdffiles/20AO020.pdf>

Effective immediately, individuals entering the courthouse must advise the court security officer before entering if they meet the following criteria:

- Persons have been to China, South Korea, Italy or Iran in the past 14 days.
- Persons who reside or have contact with someone who has been to the countries listed above in the last 14 days.
- Persons who have traveled domestically within the U.S. where COVID-19 has sustained widespread community transmission.
- Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine by a doctor, hospital or health agency.
- Persons who have been diagnosed or had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Persons with fever, cough or shortness of breath.

These restrictions will remain in place temporarily until it is determined to be safe to remove them.

#### **Western District of Michigan**

#### **Administrative Order 20-MS-024 (March 24, 2020)**

<https://www.miwd.uscourts.gov/sites/miwd/files/Admin%20Order%2020-MS-024.pdf>

This order remains in effect until April 13, 2020.

Judicial officers will continue to handle as many matters as possible by teleconference, video conference or in some other way that does not require physical appearance in a court facility.

To the extent a judicial officer believes an in-person hearing is necessary and cannot be postponed or otherwise accommodated, the hearing will occur in the Gerald R. Ford Federal Building in Grand Rapids, Michigan (if in the Southern Division), or in the court's Marquette facility (if in the Northern Division). The hearing will be conducted in a courtroom that has full audio and video capability so members of the public can observe proceedings by contacting the court to arrange the connection, and so that there is a permanent record of proceedings.

The following access restrictions will apply during the term of this order:

- The Ford Building and the Marquette facility will be open on an appointment-only basis during the term of this order. A notice or order entered by the court for a hearing is an appointment for those persons required at the hearing.
- Any other appointment must be made and approved through the designated official for the relevant facility.
- Appointments will be made for times between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
- Interested members of the public who wish to observe a hearing will need to arrange with the court for appropriate audio or video connection.

All other court facilities in the district will be closed to the public during the term of this order.

The court remains open to litigants through the normal CM-ECF process.

#### **Notice of Revised Access to Facilities (Updated March 23, 2020)**

<https://www.miwd.uscourts.gov/news/covid-19-restrictions-federal-building-access-appointment-or-court-order-only-march-24-april-14>

Federal buildings will be open to the public on an appointment-only basis until April 14, 2020.

If you have a scheduled appointment or are otherwise required to appear at one of the courthouses in the Western District of Michigan, you should proceed as follows:

- If you are represented by an attorney, please contact your attorney.
- If you are an attorney and you are scheduled to appear in court before a judge, please contact that chamber directly.
- For district clerk's office matters, please contact 616-456-2381.
- For all probation and pretrial matters, please call 616-456-2384. If you are in Marquette, please call 906-228-7432.
- If you are here for another government agency, please check with that agency to arrange an appointment.

#### **U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit**

<https://www.ca6.uscourts.gov/sites/ca6/files/COVID%20Notice.pdf> (last updated March 16)

Court is as normal with staff teleworking. Requirement that non-prisoner pro se litigants file exclusively in paper is suspended through April 17, 2020. Pro se litigants may email filings to [CA06\\_Temporary\\_Pro\\_Se\\_Efiling@ca6.uscourts.gov](mailto:CA06_Temporary_Pro_Se_Efiling@ca6.uscourts.gov)