

**IN THE  
INDIANA SUPREME COURT**

**IN THE MATTER OF )  
THE PETITION OF THE )  
DUBOIS CIRCUIT AND )  
SUPERIOR COURTS FOR )  
ADMINISTRATIVE RULE 17 )  
EMERGENCY ORDER )**

Case No. 20S-CB-149

**PETITION FOR EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS**

Come now the Courts of Dubois County and petition the Supreme Court for relief under Indiana Administrative Rule 17. In support of this Petition; the Courts inform the Supreme Court as follows:

1. The Courts of Dubois County, Indiana have convened en banc and have determined:
  - a. That the Governor of the State of Indiana has declared an emergency due to the COVID-19 virus;
  - b. That the World Health Organization has declared the Coronavirus a Pandemic;

The Judges of Dubois County request that the Supreme Court declare that an emergency exists in Dubois County under the authority of Ind. Admin. R.17, and to make appropriate emergency orders for Dubois County directing and allowing the courts and clerk of Dubois County to alter, modify, and suspend necessary procedures as provided in the emergency plan submitted herewith, so as to appropriately address this emergency.

**EMERGENCY PLAN**

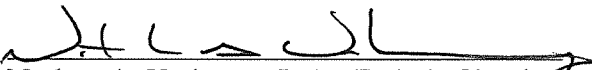
The Courts submit the following as the Emergency Plan of Dubois County:

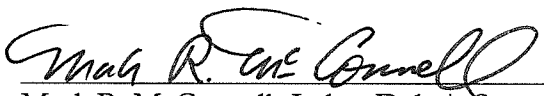
1. The tolling of all laws, rules, and procedures setting time limits for speedy trials in criminal and juvenile proceedings, public health, and mental health matters; all judgments, support, and other orders; and in all other civil and criminal matters before the Dubois County Courts. Further, no interest shall be due or charged during this tolled period.
2. The Dubois County Courts be authorized in **criminal** cases to:
  - a. continue all pre-trial conferences and non-essential hearings that will not result in a resolution of the case;
  - b. hold pre-trial and discovery status hearings by counsel only;
  - c. allow attorney-only conferences whenever possible without the requirement of a motion;
  - d. allow counsel to appear remotely by conference call;

- e. have defendants appear via teleconference from jail for any hearings, except contested sentencing hearings, plea agreements and jury trials;
  - f. continue trials for non-incarcerated individuals; and
  - g. continue all jury trials until **no later than May 4, 2020** to allow adequate notification of the jury pool.
3. The Dubois County Courts be authorized in **civil** cases, in their discretion, to:
- a. continue all jury trials until **no later than May 4, 2020** to allow adequate notification of the jury pool;
  - b. continue all bench trials;
  - c. continue all non-essential matters;
  - d. use conference call to:
    - i. conduct hearings that involve agreed issues;
    - ii. allow parties to appear remotely, unless a litigant's due process rights would be violated; and
    - iii. allow attorneys to appear remotely for any civil status conference, pre-trial conference, or non-evidentiary hearing;
  - e. allow attorney-only conferences whenever possible without the requirement of a motion;
  - f. suspend issuing civil body attachments and Title IV-D attachments; and
  - g. utilize teleconferencing in Juvenile Court for all fact-finding and termination hearings in Child in Need of Services (CHINS) cases where either parent is in the Dubois County Security Center.
4. The Dubois Courts be authorized to, in their discretion and subject to applicable Constitutional limitations, to limit spectators (other than parties to the litigation and their attorneys) in the Dubois County Judicial Center, **to the extent necessary to provide adequate social distancing.**

Submitted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

For the Courts of Record of Dubois County

  
Nathan A. Verkamp, Judge Dubois Circuit Court

  
Mark R. McConnell, Judge Dubois Superior Court