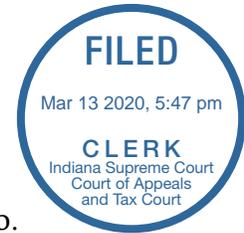


# In the Indiana Supreme Court



In the Matter of the Petition of the  
Clark Circuit Courts for  
Administrative Rule 17 Emergency Relief.

Supreme Court Case No.  
20S-CB-00111

## Order

The Clark Circuit Courts have petitioned this Court for emergency relief pursuant to Indiana Administrative Rule 17. The petition states that a state of emergency has been declared in Indiana concerning the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19); that two employees of agencies that are stakeholders in the operations of the Clerk Circuit Courts are currently under quarantine with an unknown return date; that the Clark County Health Department has referred Clark County residents to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website for guidance and instruction regarding the COVID-19 outbreak; and that one area public school system has closed until March 30 in response to the outbreak. The Honorable Vicki Carmichael has been appointed as the presiding Judge for this emergency.

It appears from the petition that compliance with appropriate public-health practices will inhibit litigants' and courts' ability to comply with statutory deadlines and rules of procedure. The Court therefore finds that good cause exists for granting emergency relief.

Being duly advised, the Court GRANTS the petition, DECLARES pursuant to Indiana Administrative Rule 17 that an emergency exists in Clark County, and APPROVES the plan as submitted. The Court further ORDERS as follows to ensure the orderly and fair administration of justice during this emergency:

1. The Court authorizes the tolling, effective the date of this order and through April 10, 2020, 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 Clark Circuit Courts. Further, no interest shall be due or charged during this tolled period.
2. Effective the date of this order and through April 10, 2020, this Court authorizes immediate suspension of all civil proceedings, except for protective orders in domestic violence cases and emergency Child in Need of Services (CHINS) proceedings.
3. Effective the date of this order and through April 10, 2020, this Court authorizes immediate suspension of all criminal proceedings, except for emergency motions and petitions, bond hearing, arraignments for inmates, initial hearings, emergency hearings, and any criminal hearing of proceeding necessary to protect a defendant's right to a speedy trial.

4. Petitioners shall communicate with the Clark County Bar and public and shall make arrangements to be available to deal with emergency and other pressing matters.
5. The Clark Circuit Courts shall file a status update **no later than April 9, 2020** to inform this Court of whether there is an ongoing need for emergency relief.

Done at Indianapolis, Indiana, on 3/13/2020.



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Loretta H. Rush  
Chief Justice of Indiana