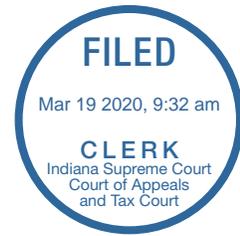


In the
Indiana Supreme Court



In the Matter of the Petition of the
Pulaski County Circuit and Superior Courts
for Administrative Rule 17 Emergency
Relief.

Supreme Court Case No.
20S-CB-160

Order

The Pulaski County Circuit and Superior Courts (“the courts”) have petitioned this Court for emergency relief pursuant to Indiana Administrative Rule 17. The petition states that the Governor of the State of Indiana has declared a public health emergency due to the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19); the World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 a pandemic; the CDC has determined that social distancing and other drastic steps are immediately required to combat further spread of COVID-19; a large percentage of the population of Pulaski County are at heightened risk of serious complications from COVID-19; and the Pulaski County Courts do not possess adequate hygiene stations or supplies for the dozens of jurors needed for jury selection. It appears this emergency will inhibit litigants’ and courts’ ability to comply with statutory deadlines and rules of procedure.

The Court 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 Pulaski 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, **effective March 17, 2020**:

1. This Court authorizes the tolling, from the effective date of this order **through May 4, 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 courts. Further, no interest shall be due or charged during this tolled period.
2. This Court authorizes immediate suspension of all criminal and civil jury trials through May 4, 2020. The courts are directed to review **no later than April 17, 2020** whether continued suspension is necessary; and if it is not, to resume jury trials **no later than May 4, 2020** to allow adequate notification of the jury pool. If the courts believe continued suspension is necessary, they may petition this Court to extend the suspension.
3. Through April 17, 2020, the Juvenile Court of Pulaski County is authorized in its discretion to hear only JD and JC detention hearings and other hearings it deems

essential and to require only essential staff to work; provided, however, that the Juvenile Court shall maintain sufficient operations to process emergency matters.

4. **Through April 17, 2020**, the courts are authorized, in their discretion and subject to applicable Constitutional limitations, to limit spectators (other than parties, their attorneys, and any other statutorily contemplated attendees) in courtrooms to the extent necessary to provide adequate social distancing.
5. **Through April 17, 2020**, any attorney wishing to appear remotely for any status conference or non-evidentiary hearing in the courts may do so without further leave of the court by filing a “Notice of Remote Appearance” in the court in which the matter will be heard. Remote appearances may be coordinated through teleconference systems or CourtCall.
6. **Through April 17, 2020**, the courts may consider (a) the existence of flu or flu-like symptoms in any attorney, self-represented litigant, or witness; or (b) exposure of such individuals to anyone who has or may have COVID-19; to constitute good cause to either appear remotely or continue a court setting, to the extent possible without violating statutory or constitutional rights.
7. The Pulaski County Courts shall file a status update **no later than April 16, 2020** to inform this Court of whether there is an ongoing need for emergency relief.

Done at Indianapolis, Indiana, on 3/19/2020.



Loretta H. Rush
Chief Justice of Indiana