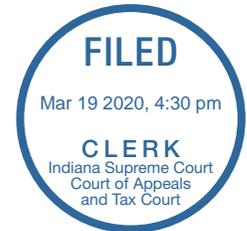


In the Indiana Supreme Court

In the Matter of the Petition of the
Lawrenceburg City Court for
Administrative Rule 17 Emergency Relief.

Supreme Court Case No.
20S-CB-190



Order

The Lawrenceburg City Court has petitioned this Court for emergency relief pursuant to Indiana Administrative Rule 17. The petition states that federal and state emergencies have been declared due to the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19), and in response, the City of Lawrenceburg has implemented a city-wide access plan, suspending all public non-emergency access to public facilities. It appears from the petition that this emergency inhibits 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 IN PART the petition, DECLARES pursuant to Indiana Administrative Rule 17 that an emergency exists in Dearborn County, and APPROVES IN PART the plan as submitted. The Court further ORDERS as follows to ensure the orderly and fair administration of justice during this emergency, effective **March 18, 2020**:

1. The Court authorizes the tolling, from the effective date of this order **through May 4, 2020**, of all laws, rules, and procedures setting time limits in civil proceedings; all judgments, support, and other orders; and in all other civil matters before the Lawrenceburg City Court. Further, no interest shall be due or charged during this tolled period.
2. **Through May 4, 2020**, this Court authorizes immediate suspension in civil cases of all bench trials and other proceedings, except emergencies or matters deemed essential in the court's discretion, and subject to the parties' constitutional rights.
3. **Through May 4, 2020**, this Court authorizes the issuance of summonses in lieu of bench warrants, writs of attachment, notices of failure to appear, or notice of failure to pay.
4. **Through May 4, 2020**, the Lawrenceburg City Court is authorized, in its discretion and subject to applicable Constitutional limitations, to limit spectators (other than parties to the litigation and their attorneys) in courtroom to the extent necessary to provide adequate social distancing.
5. **Through May 4, 2020**, the Lawrenceburg City Court may exercise flexibility in granting continuances or extending deadlines, including by considering (a) the existence of flu or flu-like symptoms in any attorney, self-represented litigant, or

witness expected to testify; 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 or extend a deadline, to the extent possible without violating statutory or constitutional rights.

6. **Through May 4, 2020**, the Lawrenceburg City Court shall maintain sufficient operations to process emergency matters, maintain contact with the public by telephone and email, and receive payments electronically or by mail for fines and judgments; but it may suspend receipt of such payments in person. The clerk may, if otherwise permitted by the city-wide access plan, utilize a drop box to receive filings and payments.
7. **Through May 4, 2020**, the Lawrenceburg City Court is authorized, in its discretion, to suspend issuing civil body attachments and to exercise flexibility in issuing any Failure to Appear/Failure to Pay license suspensions.
8. The Lawrenceburg City Court shall file a status update **no later than April 24, 2010** 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