

20S-CB-118

SWITZERLAND CIRCUIT COURT EMERGENCY PETITION
PURSUANT TO ADMINISTRATIVE RULE 17

Comes now the Switzerland Circuit Court and petitions the Indiana Supreme Court for relief under Ind. Admin. Rule 17. In support of this petition, the Switzerland Circuit Court informs the Indiana Supreme Court as follows:

1. The undersigned judge has met with Prosecuting Attorney Monica Hensley and Circuit Court Clerk Gayle Sullivan to discuss the issue of the Covid-19 virus.
2. The court is aware that Governor Holcomb signed an executive order on March 6, 2020 declaring a statewide emergency related to the Covid-19 virus.
3. That all Switzerland County Schools are closed at this time due to the threat of the Covid-19 virus.
4. That a confirmed case of Covid-19 virus has been discovered in Floyd County, Indiana, and that attorneys to cases here in Switzerland County travel to the courts of that county.
5. That the undersigned believes that the methamphetamine and other illegal controlled substances that circulate in Switzerland County often originate through dealers from the Greater Louisville/Southern Indiana metropolitan area, and as such could bring carriers to the court offices in the form of individuals required to appear regularly for drug testing.
6. That the undersigned believes that an emergency exists.
7. That the Supreme Court is requested to declare that an emergency exists in Switzerland County under Ind. Admin. Rule 17 and to make appropriate emergency orders for Switzerland County directing and allowing the court and clerk of the court to alter, modify, and suspend necessary procedures.

8. Switzerland County's emergency plan would take effect immediately upon approval and run through April 10, 2020, and is as follows:
 - a. All civil proceedings would be suspended except for protective orders in domestic violence cases and emergency CHINS proceedings; and
 - b. All criminal proceedings would be suspended except emergency motions and petitions, bond hearings, initial hearings, emergency hearings, and any criminal hearing or proceeding necessary to protect a defendant's right to speedy trial

Dated: March 16, 2020

/s/ W. Gregory Coy
Judge, Switzerland Circuit Court
(812) 427-4435