

IN RE:	)	
	)	
VANDEBURGH COUNTY	)	CAUSE NO. <u>20S-CB-136</u>
	)	
COURTS' COVID-19 PLAN	)	
	)	

**VANDEBURGH COUNTY CIRCUIT AND SUPERIOR COURTS**  
**PETITION TO ADOPT PLAN UNDER ADMINISTRATIVE RULE 17**

Come now the Courts of Vanderburgh County and petitions the Supreme Court of Indiana for relief under Ind. Administrative Rule 17. In Support of this petition, the courts inform the Supreme Court as follows:

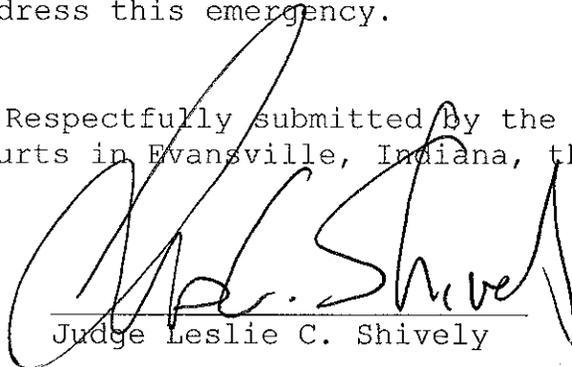
1. The courts of Vanderburgh County have convened in banc and have determined:

- A. The President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, has declared a national emergency regarding the COVID-19 outbreak.
- B. Governor Eric Holcomb has declared a statewide health emergency and instituted additional steps to reduce the spread of COVID-19 (see ex. B).
- C. The Vanderburgh County Health Department, via the Health Officer of Vanderburgh County, has recommended the closure of schools within Vanderburgh County effective 5 p.m. on Friday, March 13, 2020 through Friday, March 27, 2020. The Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation has adopted such measures.
- D. The Vanderburgh County Circuit and Superior Courts have implemented a plan to further the goal of limiting the spread of COVID-19 in accordance with the practices outlined by the United States Center for Disease Control and Governor Eric Holcomb.

- E. The Vanderburgh County Circuit and Superior Courts believe that limiting court appearances, as possible, is in the best interests of the citizens of Vanderburgh County.
- F. The Vanderburgh County Circuit and Superior Courts anticipate that precautionary measures will be implemented and necessary through April 20, 2020.
- G. The Vanderburgh County Circuit and Superior Courts have issued the attached Order (see ex. A) to mitigate the exposure of individuals to COVID-19 and other potentially fatal viruses.
- H. That the local courts have appointed Judge David D. Kiely and Judge Leslie C. Shively as the presiding Judges for this emergency and for the purposes of this petition.

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

Respectfully submitted by the Vanderburgh Circuit and Superior Courts in Evansville, Indiana, this 16th day of March, 2020.



Judge Leslie C. Shively



Judge David D. Kiely