

IN THE INDIANA SUPREME COURT

IN THE MATTER OF
THE PETITION OF THE
HENRY COUNTY CIRCUIT
COURTS FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF
UNDER ADMINISTRATIVE RULE 17

CASE NO: 20S-CB-153
TRIAL COURT CAUSE NO: 33C01-2003-CB-000044

PETITION FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF

Comes now the Henry County Circuit Courts and petition the Indiana Supreme Court for relief under Ind. Administrative Rule 17. In support of this petition, the Courts inform the

Supreme Court of the following:

1. The Judges of the Henry County Circuit Courts have met and discussed that the President of the United States and the Governor of the State of Indiana have both found that a state of emergency exists in the country and the state due to the COVID-19 virus.
2. All public school corporations in Henry County are currently closed and will not re-open for at least 2-3 weeks.
3. The Henry County Commissioners met on March 16, 2020, and enacted a resolution which adopted the recommendations of the Henry County Health Department concerning the operation of Henry County Offices. The recommendations recognized the fact that the Courts would continue to have oversight with respect to the operation of the Courts.
4. The Courts adopted a plan for the continued operation of the Courts which is outlined in the attached document which is identified as "Exhibit A".
5. Judge Bob A. Witham of Henry Circuit Court 1 is currently serving as Presiding Judge of the Henry County Circuit Courts.

The Judges of the Henry County Circuit Courts request that the Supreme Court declare that an emergency exists in Henry County under the authority of Ind. Admin. Rule 17 and to

make appropriate order for Henry County directing and allowing the Courts of Henry County to alter, modify and suspend necessary procedures as provided in the plan submitted herewith so the Courts can appropriately address this emergency.

Respectfully submitted this 17 day of March, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob A. Witham', written over a horizontal line.

Bob A. Witham, Judge
Henry Circuit Court 1

EMERGENCY PLAN FOR HENRY COUNTY COURTS

1. All jury trials are immediately suspended until further order of the court. This will be reviewed by April 17, 2020 with jury trials beginning no earlier than May 4, 2020 thus allowing for adequate notification of the jury pool.
2. Spectators will be barred from the courtroom until further order of the court. Only litigants, their attorneys, witnesses with subpoenas and properly credentialed media will be allowed in the courtroom.
3. All litigants are encouraged to check www.mycase.in.gov for the status of their case on a continuing basis.
4. No one will be allowed into the Henry County Justice Center who is ill or appears visibly ill. Henry County Justice Center Security has the authority to deny entry into the Justice Center for anyone who appears visibly ill.
5. The tolling of all laws, rules, and procedures setting time limits for speedy trials in criminal and juvenile proceedings, public health, mental health, and appellate matters.

EXHIBIT A