

20S-CB-195

**BEFORE THE INDIANA SUPREME COURT  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA**

In the Matter of Administrative Rule 17     )  
Emergency Relief for Indiana Trial Courts    )  
Relating to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus     )  
(COVID-19)   )

**EMERGENCY PETITION FOR ADMINSITRATIVE ORDERS**

The East Chicago City Court, having conferred with local officials in the city of East Chicago and in Lake County, and having reviewed the Order of the Indiana Supreme Court regarding “the Courts of Lake County” dated March 13, 2020, and the Order of the Indiana Supreme Court dated March 16, 2020 at 1:11 p.m., now petitions the Indiana Supreme Court for the following emergency measures under Indiana Administrative Rule 17 beginning March 18, 2020 and through May 4, 2020:

1. Tolling for a limited time all laws, rules, and procedures setting time limits for speedy trials in criminal and appellate matters; all judgments, and other orders; and in all other civil and criminal matters before the East Chicago City Court.

2. Effective March 18, 2020 and extending through May 4, 2020, any attorney of record wishing to continue or rescheduling non-essential hearings, status hearings (excluding emergency matters, domestic violence hearings, DUI hearings, and evidentiary hearings in criminal cases) will be granted.

3. Issuing summonses in lieu of bench warrants or notices of failure to appear.

4. The Court will hear all misdemeanor initial cases, a limited number of infraction initial hearings, and all bond cases, all in-custody and all transports.

5. Considering (a) the existence of flu or flu-like symptoms in any attorney, self-represented litigant, or witness expected to testify; (b) exposure of such individuals to anyone who has or may have COVID-19; or (c) status of such individuals in a high-risk category; to

constitute “good cause” to either appear remotely or continue a court setting, to the extent possible without violating statutory or constitutional rights.

6. Subject to applicable Constitutional limitations, limiting spectators (other than parties to the litigation and their attorneys) in the courtrooms to the extent necessary to provide adequate social distancing.

7. For trial court clerks, making drop boxes available, for conventionally filed documents.

8. Posting signage at all public entry points to judicial facilities advising individuals not to enter the building if they have:

- a. Visited China, Iran, South Korea, any European countries, or any other high-risk countries identified by the CDC in the previous 14 days;
- b. Resided with or been in close contact with someone who has been in any of those countries within the previous 14 days;
- c. Traveled domestically within the United States where COVID-19 has sustained widespread community transmission;
- d. Been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital, or health agency;
- e. Been diagnosed with or had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19; or
- f. A fever, cough or shortness of breath;

and directing bailiffs or court security officers to deny entrance to individuals attempting to enter in violation of these protocols.

9. Allowing individuals with legitimate court business to stay home and request a continuance by phone to the East Chicago City Court if they are ill, caring for someone who is ill, or in a high-risk category.

WHEREFORE, the judge of East Chicago Lake County request that the Indiana Supreme Court declare that an emergency exists in East Chicago under the authority of Ind. Admin. R. 17, and to make appropriate emergency orders for East Chicago City Court directing and allowing the court and clerk of the city of East Chicago to alter, modify, and suspend necessary procedures as provided in the emergency plan submitted herewith, so as to appropriately address this emergency.

Respectfully submitted March 18, 2020.

  
Sonya Morris, Judge  
East Chicago City Court