

20S-CB-191

**PUTNAM CIRCUIT AND SUPERIOR COURTS
GREENCASTLE, INDIANA**

IN RE: The Matter of Requesting

Relief Under Indiana Administrative Rule 17

Cause No. 67C01-2003-CB-

**PETITION FOR RELIEF UNDER INDIANA
ADMINISTRATIVE RULE 17**

The Courts of Putnam County petition the Indiana Supreme Court for relief under Indiana Administrative Rule 17. In support of this petition, the Putnam Superior and Circuit Courts inform the Indiana Supreme Court as follows:

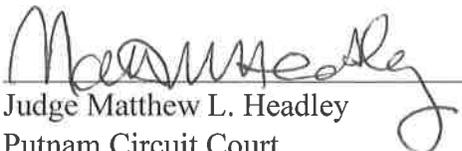
1. The Putnam Superior and Putnam Circuit Court has determined the following:
 - A. The Governor of the State of Indiana has declared a public health emergency;
 - B. Putnam County local schools corporations have closed schools and are engaging in e-learning through Monday, April 6, 2020. Discussions have been held that e-learning may extend past April 6, 2020.
 - C. The Governor of the State of Indiana has restrictions on all non-essential gatherings of more than 50 individuals.
 - D. The United States Center for Disease Control (“CDC”) recommends that effective March 15, 2020, and for the next eight weeks, all non-essential gatherings must be limited to no more than 10 people.
 - E. The United States CDC is encouraging “social distancing” as a means of limiting the Spread of COVID-19.
 - F. The Putnam Circuit and Superior Courts along with the Magistrate hold hearings and proceedings which result in numerous people entering the Putnam County Courthouse.
 - G. Each Court has received numerous inquiries about the health and safety of litigants, counsel, prospective jurors and the public;
 - H. The protection of Putnam County citizens is of upmost importance to the Courts.

- I. The Honorable Matthew L. Headley has been appointed as the presiding Judge of this emergency.

The judges of Putnam County request that the Indiana Supreme Court declare that an Emergency exists in Putnam County under the authority of Ind. Admin. R. 17, and to make appropriate emergency orders for Putnam County directing and allowing the Court and Clerk of Putnam County to alter, modify, and suspend necessary procedures to appropriately address this emergency.

Further, the judges of Putnam County specifically request the following:

1. Authorize the tolling, beginning March 18, 2020 and until MAY 1ST, 2020, of all laws, rules, and procedures setting time limits in all criminal, juvenile, CHINS, domestic relations, mental health, and all civil matters before the Court of Putnam County; and
2. Beginning March 18, 2020 and until MAY 1ST, 2020, authorize the Putnam County courts, in their discretion, to continue all hearings they deem non-essential.



Judge Matthew L. Headley
Putnam Circuit Court
3/18/20



Judge Charles D. Bridges
Putnam Superior Court