

STATE OF INDIANA)
COURT

IN THE ZIONSVILLE TOWN

COUNTY OF BOONE)

CAUSE NO: 20S-CB-220

PETITION FOR RELIEF UNDER INDIANA ADMINISTRATIVE RULE 17

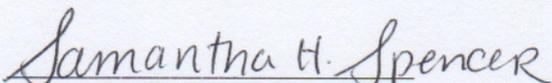
Comes now the Zionsville Town Court and petitions the Supreme Court for relief under Indiana Administrative Rule 17. In support of this Petition, the Zionsville Town Court informs the Supreme Court as follows: The Zionsville Town Court has determined:

- 1) That on March 6, 2020 Governor Eric Holcomb signed an Executive Order declaring an emergency related to the COVID-19 also known as novel coronavirus;
- 2) On March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency relating to the virus;
- 3) On March 17, 2020, the Boone County Commissioners declared a county-wide emergency;
- 4) The United States Center for Disease Control is recommending that events with large groups of people be canceled or postponed, if possible, for the next eight (8) weeks;
- 5) In addition, the United States Center for Disease Control is encouraging “Social Distancing” as a means of limiting the spread of COVID-19 and other potentially fatal viruses;
- 6) All Zionsville schools are closed as of Friday, March 12, 2020 until further notice.
- 7) The Zionsville Town Court holds hearings and proceedings where a number of defendants enter the Zionsville Town Hall through a central entrance point and congregate in the public areas of the courthouse;
- 8) Mitigation of the spread of the contagions is of utmost importance to protect the citizens of the Town of Zionsville;
- 9) The Judge of the Zionsville Town Court requests the Supreme Court authorize and approve the following emergency plans and measures under Indiana Administrative Rule 17 that shall apply through May 4, 2020 unless and if modified by subsequent order:
 - a. All Traffic Court (Infractions and Local Ordinances) bench trials, scheduled between March 20, 2020 and May 4, 2020 shall be continued effective immediately;

- b. All other hearings scheduled between March 20, 2020 and May 4, 2020 shall be continued and/or rescheduled effective immediately;
- c. Effective March 20, 2020 and extending through May 4, 2020, any attorney wishing to appear remotely for any status conference or non-evidentiary hearing is hereby given permission to do so;
- d. The Zionsville Town Court has flexibility in issuing any Failure to Appear/Failure to Pay License Suspensions;
- e. No motion to appear telephonically shall be required, however, attorneys wishing to appear telephonically must file a Notice of Remote Appearance 24 hours prior to hearing to provide court staff notice of the same and may be called upon to coordinate the call to the court if more than one attorney are appearing remotely on a matter;
- f. The existence of flu or flu-like symptoms in counsel, self-represented litigants, or any witness expected to testify, or exposure of such individuals to anyone who has or may have COVID-19, shall be considered good cause for any motion to continue an evidentiary hearing or motion to continue a bench trial;
- g. Persons appearing in the Zionsville Town Court who are either experiencing flu or flu-like symptoms, or persons who have had exposure to COVID-19 may be directed, by a sign or otherwise, to report the same to court staff;
- h. The Zionsville Town Court shall have authority to limit spectators or other persons gathering in the courtroom or adjacent hallway.

SO PETITIONED AT ZIONSVILLE, BOONE COUNTY, INDIANA this 20th day of March 2020.

Respectfully submitted,


Samantha H. Spencer
Judge Zionsville Town Court