

20S-CB-226

**IN RE THE PETITION FOR
EMERGENCY RELIEF PURSUANT TO AR 17
BY THE KNOX CITY COURT**

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

Come now the Knox City Court (“Court”) and petitions the Supreme Court for relief under Indiana Administrative Rule 17. In support of this Petition, the Court informs the Indiana Supreme Court as follows:

The Knox City Court has determined:

- a. That the President of the United States of America has declared a national emergency due to the COVID-19 virus.
- b. That the Governor of the State of Indiana has declared an emergency due to the COVID-19 virus.
- c. That the World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 virus a pandemic.
- d. That the Mayor of Knox has placed restrictions on the foot traffic at City Hall. This restriction will be fluid and changing rapidly as adjustments are made at the state level.
- e. That the Honorable Judge Charles F. Hanserl is the judge of Knox City Court and shall be the presiding Judge during this emergency.

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

EMERGENCY PLAN

The Court submits the following as the Emergency Plan of Knox City Court and requests authorization to utilize any combination of these measures as the Court deem appropriate:

1. The Court will continue all criminal pre-trial hearings and postpone non-essential hearings.
2. The Court will continue or postpone all bench trial until such time as the health risk no longer exists.
3. Exercise flexibility in granting continuances or extending deadlines.
4. Using telephonic or video technology in lieu of in-person appearances when necessary to deal with inmates.
5. Issuing summonses in lieu of bench warrants, notices of failure to appear, or notices of failure to pay.
6. Provide the public with access to the Court and its staff through telephonic and email

correspondence.

7. The Court will not receipt payments for fines and judgements in person; the Court directs all payments of fines or judgements to be made electronically or by mail. The City Hall drop box has also been made available for those wishing to deliver their payments in a more timely fashion.
8. The Court will not be issuing any failure to pay/appear license suspensions.
9. All written communication can be done by using email, fax or the United States Postal Service.
10. The Mayor of the City of Knox has posted signs at all points of entry advising all individuals that they are not to enter the building, but use one of the preferred methods of communication.

The petitioning Court proposes this plan remain in effect until May 20, 2020 or as may be extended from time to time, upon Motion of the petitioning Court.

Respectfully submitted March 23,2020,

Honorable Charles F. Hasnerl
Presiding Judge Knox City
Court