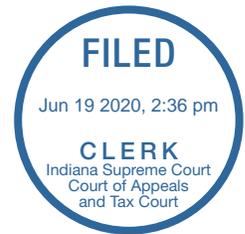


In the Indiana Supreme Court

In the Matter of the Petition of the Butler
City Court for Administrative Rule 17
Emergency Relief.

Supreme Court Case No.
20S-CB-248



Order Approving Expansion of Operations Plan In Part

By orders issued April 24 and May 13, 2020, this Court ordered trial courts statewide to submit plans for gradually resuming normal operations under limitations appropriate to the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency. Pursuant to that order, the petitioning court filed an expansion of operations plan (“Plan”) on June 18, 2020.

The Court finds that the Plan was made in coordination with appropriate local officials and local justice system partners to account for local health conditions, facility readiness, and litigants’ needs; and that the Plan makes reasonable provisions for resuming normal staffing, providing public access to non-confidential proceedings, and resuming jury trials. A copy of the Plan is attached to this order and incorporated by reference.

Being duly advised, and pursuant to Indiana Administrative Rule 17 and this Court’s inherent authority to supervise the administration of all courts of this State, the Court ORDERS as follows:

1. All emergency relief previously granted to the petitioning court(s) under Administrative Rule 17 is deemed to expire as of the effective date of this order, except as provided by this Court’s “Order Extending Trial Courts’ Emergency Tolling Authority and Setting Expiration of Other Emergency Orders” issued May 29, 2020 in Case No. 20S-CB-123. However, this Court’s May 13, 2020 “Emergency Order Permitting Expanded Remote Hearings” and paragraph 3 of its May 13 “Order Extending Time for Expanding Trial Court Operations” in Case No. 20S-CB-123 (prohibiting jury trials before July 1 without prior approval of this Court) remain in full force and effect.
2. The Plan is approved **in part**, with the exception that the petitioning court shall allow the public access to hearings, either in-person or remotely. The petitioning court shall comply with the terms of the Plan **as modified above** through its stated duration, subject to further order of this Court.

Done at Indianapolis, Indiana, on 6/19/2020 , effective **June 18, 2020**.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loretta H. Rush".

Loretta H. Rush
Chief Justice of Indiana

Cause # 20S-CB-248

**IN RE THE PETITION FOR
TRANSITIONS PLANS PURSUANT TO AR 17
BY THE BUTLER CITY COURT**

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

Come now the Butler City Court and petitions the Supreme Court for relief under Indiana Administrative Rule 17. In support of the petition, the Court in forms the Indiana Supreme Court as follows:

The Butler City Court has determined:

1. The Judge of Butler City. Court requests that the Indiana Supreme Court declare that an emergency exists in the City of Butler, under the authority of IND. Admin R.17, and to make appropriate emergency orders directing and allowing the Court and clerk of the Court to resume procedures as provided in the emergency plan submitted herewith, so as to appropriately address the emergency.
 - A. The president of the United States of America has declared a national emergency due to the COVID-19.
 - B. That the Governor of the State of Indiana has declared an emergency due to COVID-19 virus.
 - C. That the World health Organization declared the COVID-19 virus a Pandemic.
 - D. That the City of Butler in response to COVID-19 pandemic, has implemented a city wide access plan to reopen all public non-emergency access to public facilities.
 - E. That Judge Richard L. Obendorf is the Judge for the Butler City Court and shall be the presiding Judge for this emergency.

2. Planning.

The Court has got the approval of the City of Butler, Mayor, Judge, City Clerk, and City Council to approve reopening. The Butler City Court will share the plan with Dekalb County Prosecutor, and Butler City Attorney, Cedric Hollabaugh

3. Employment Procedure,

1. All employees has continued to work thru out the pandemic.
2. Workers are practicing six feet distancing.
3. All desks are more than six feet apart even before the pandemic.
4. Sanitizer is encouraged and provided.

5. Employees are not at risks.
 6. The employees have been instructed to not come to work when ill with symptoms of Covid-19, Employees has been instructed to report if they have had close contact with someone positive for Covid-19.
 7. Health department guidelines will be followed for ill employees and those close contact with someone positive for Covid-19.
 8. The wearing of masks is required.
 9. Masks or face shields are provided

4. Courthouse Facility Plan

1. All chairs has been removed from the lobbies. Lines are taped on the floor in 6 feet increments with an aisle taped in the middle.
2. Sneeze guards are in place at the court/Traffic ticket window.
3. The drinking fountain will be marked out of service.
4. Only one person at a time shall be allowed in the court lobby due to size restrictions.
5. All doorknobs and counters in the court shall be disinfected 4 times daily approximately at 10 am, noon, and 2 p.m. and at closing.
6. Each employee shall be responsible for wiping down his/her desk, phone and routinely touched items at the end of each work day.
7. Courtroom chairs will be cleaned after every use with a bleach solution. Table will be cleaned with a disinfectant. Paper towels will be used to clean and will be dispose of after every cleaning.
8. Shared equipment will be cleaned with disinfectant after every use.
9. Monies will be handle with the clerk wearing disposable gloves.
10. Mental health resource Bowen center or www.bewellindiana.com

5. Screening Procedures for the Public

1. Defendants and lawyers will be permitted into court facilities.
2. Due to the increase cases of Covid-19 in our county, Mask are now required for the public.
3. Everyone will have a mask on in the court room per prosecutor.
4. 6 feet social distancing is required.

6. Resuming Non-Emergency Hearings

1. Due to the increase cases of Covid-19 in our county, Mask are now required for the public.
2. Everyone will have a mask on in the court room per prosecutor.
3. 6 feet social distancing is required.
4. No one other than the Judge, Prosecutor, defendant and witnesses, lawyer (if applicable) and the officers will be allowed in the court room during pretrial and contested court.

7. Jury Trials

Does not apply

8. Court Supervised Services.

Does not apply

Respectfully submitted


Honorable Richard L. Obendorf,
Presiding Judge