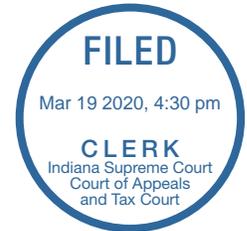


In the Indiana Supreme Court

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

Supreme Court Case No.
20S-CB-195



Order

The East Chicago City Court has petitioned this Court for emergency relief pursuant to Indiana Administrative Rule 17 and this Court's March 16, 2020 order under Case No. 20S-CB-123. This Court takes judicial notice of the declaration of a public health emergency in Indiana and nationwide relating to the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). This emergency is likely to inhibit litigants' and courts' ability to comply with statutory deadlines and rules of procedure.

The Court finds that good cause exists for granting emergency relief.

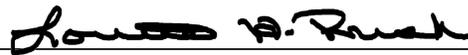
Being duly advised, the Court GRANTS the petition, DECLARES pursuant to Indiana Administrative Rule 17 that an emergency exists in the East Chicago City Court, and APPROVES the plan as submitted. The Court ORDERS as follows to ensure the orderly and fair administration of justice during this emergency, effective **March 18, 2020**:

1. The Court authorizes the tolling, from the effective date of this order **through May 4, 2020**, of all laws, rules, and procedures setting time limits for speedy trials in criminal and juvenile proceedings, public health, and mental health matters; all judgments, support, and other orders; and in all other civil and criminal matters before the East Chicago City Court. Further, no interest shall be due or charged during this tolled period.
2. **Through May 4, 2020**, the East Chicago City Court is authorized to suspend any civil or criminal proceedings except misdemeanor initial hearings, bond hearings, and other matters deemed essential in the court's discretion.
3. **Through May 4, 2020**, the East Chicago City Court is authorized to issue summonses in lieu of bench warrants or notices of failure to appear.
4. **Through May 4, 2020**, the East Chicago City Court is authorized, in its discretion and subject to applicable Constitutional limitations, to limit spectators (other than parties to the litigation and their attorneys) in courtrooms to the extent necessary to provide adequate social distancing and to limit the size of the gathering consistent with public-health recommendations.
5. **Through May 4, 2020**, any attorney wishing to appear remotely for any status conference or non-evidentiary hearing in the East Chicago City Court may do so

without further leave of court upon filing a “Notice of Remote Appearance” in the court.

6. **Through May 4, 2020**, the East Chicago City Court is authorized to make drop boxes available for all conventionally filed documents.
7. **Through May 4, 2020**, the East Chicago City Court may post signage at all public entry points to its 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 these 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 direct bailiffs or court security officers to deny entrance to individuals attempting to enter in violation of these protocols.
8. **Through May 4, 2020**, the East Chicago City Court shall allow individuals with legitimate court business to stay home and request a continuance by phone to the court if they are ill, caring for someone who is ill, or in a high-risk category.
9. **Through May 4, 2020**, the East Chicago City Court may consider (a) the existence of flu or flu-like symptoms in any attorney, self-represented litigant, or witness expected to testify; or (b) exposure of such individuals to anyone who has or may have COVID-19; to constitute “good cause” to either appear remotely or continue a court setting, to the extent possible without violating statutory or constitutional rights.
10. The East Chicago City Court shall file a status update **no later than April 20, 2020** to inform this Court of whether there is an ongoing need for emergency relief.

Done at Indianapolis, Indiana, on 3/19/2020.



Loretta H. Rush
Chief Justice of Indiana