

In the Indiana Supreme Court

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

Supreme Court Case No.
20S-CB-199



Order

The Carmel City Court has petitioned this Court for emergency relief pursuant to Indiana Administrative Rule 17. The petition states that federal and State emergencies have been declared regarding the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the Mayor of Carmel has banned gatherings of more than 250 persons, and the Center for Disease Control is encouraging social distancing to limit the spread of the virus. Additionally, a Hamilton County resident has been infected with the virus. It appears that this emergency will inhibit litigants' and courts' ability to comply with statutory deadlines and rules of procedure.

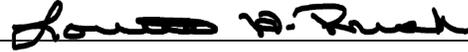
The Court finds that good cause exists for granting emergency relief.

Being duly advised, the Court GRANTS IN PART the petition, DECLARES pursuant to Indiana Administrative Rule 17 that an emergency exists in Carmel City, and APPROVES IN PART the plan as submitted. The Court further ORDERS as follows to ensure the orderly and fair administration of justice during this emergency, effective **March 19, 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 Carmel City Court. Further, no interest shall be due or charged during this tolled period.
2. **Through May 4, 2020**, the Carmel City Court is authorized to continue all non-essential hearings at its discretion. In criminal proceedings, bond hearings and arraignments of inmates shall be deemed essential. Initial hearings, for individuals who have been issued a summons and are not in custody, may be continued. The court may in its discretion deem Traffic Court proceedings (infractions and violations of local ordinances) to be non-essential.
3. **Through May 4, 2020**, subject to applicable constitutional limitations, the Carmel City Court is authorized to limit spectators (other than parties to the litigation and their attorneys) in the courtroom and adjacent hallway to the extent necessary to provide adequate social distancing and to limit the size of the gathering consistent with public-health recommendations.

4. The Carmel City Court shall file a status update **no later than May 1, 2020** to inform this Court of whether there is an ongoing need for emergency relief.

Done at Indianapolis, Indiana, on 3/20/2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Loretta H. Rush", is written over a horizontal line.

Loretta H. Rush
Chief Justice of Indiana