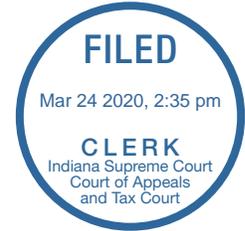


In the Indiana Supreme Court

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

Supreme Court Case No.
20S-CB-224

Trial Court Case No.
27H01



Order

The Gas City Court has petitioned this Court for emergency relief pursuant to Indiana Administrative Rule 17. The petition states, in part, that the Governor of Indiana has declared a state of emergency due to the 2019 novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”); the Centers for Disease Control has recommended “social distancing” as a means of limiting the spread of COVID-19; Grant County has confirmed its first case of COVID-19; and the Gas City Court holds hearings and proceedings that result in many people entering Gas City Hall. It appears 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 the petition, DECLARES pursuant to Indiana Administrative Rule 17 that an emergency exists in Gas City, 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 23, 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 Gas City Court. Further, no interest shall be due or charged during this tolled period.
2. **Through May 4, 2020**, this Court authorizes immediate suspension of all criminal and civil trials in Gas City Court, including those with a “fast and speedy” setting requested.
3. **Through May 4, 2020**, Gas City Court is authorized to continue and/or reschedule non-essential hearings in all criminal cases, including individuals who have been issued a summons to appear and are not in custody, and deeming as essential bond hearings, arraignments of inmates, and other matters determined by the court to be essential or an emergency.

4. **Through May 4, 2020**, Gas City Court is authorized to suspend non-essential proceedings in all civil cases.
5. **Through May 4, 2020**, Gas City Court is authorized to suspend all non-essential proceedings in Traffic Court.
6. **Through May 4, 2020**, subject to applicable Constitutional limitations, Gas City Court is authorized to limit spectators (other than parties to the litigation and their attorneys) in courtrooms and adjacent hallways to the extent necessary to provide adequate social distancing and to limit the size of the gathering consistent with public-health recommendations.
7. Gas City Court shall file a status update **no later than April 15, 2020**, to inform this Court of whether there is an ongoing need for emergency relief.

Done at Indianapolis, Indiana, on 3/24/2020.



Loretta H. Rush

Chief Justice of Indiana