

In the
Indiana Supreme Court



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

Supreme Court Case No.
20S-CB-226

Order

Knox City Court has petitioned this Court for emergency relief pursuant to Indiana Administrative Rule 17. The petition states, in part, that the President of the United States and Governor of Indiana have declared a state of emergency due to the 2019 novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”); the World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 to be a pandemic; and the Mayor of Knox City has placed restrictions on “foot traffic at 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 IN PART the petition, DECLARES pursuant to Indiana Administrative Rule 17 that an emergency exists in the Knox City Court, and APPROVES IN PART 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 Knox City Court. Further, no interest shall be due or charged during this tolled period.
2. This Court authorizes immediate suspension of all criminal and civil trials, including those with a “fast and speedy” setting requested, through **May 4, 2020**.
3. **Through May 4, 2020**, Knox City Court is authorized to suspend non-essential hearings in all criminal and civil cases.
4. **Through May 4, 2020**, the Knox City Court is authorized to have defendants in custody appear remotely by using telephonic or video conferencing, subject to statutory and Constitutional limitations.
5. **Through May 4, 2020**, the Knox City Court is authorized to have counsel and parties appear remotely by using telephonic or video conferencing, subject to statutory and Constitutional limitations.

6. **Through May 4, 2020**, Knox City Court is authorized to issue summons in lieu of bench warrants, notices of failure to appear, and notices of failure to pay.
7. **Through May 4, 2020**, the Knox City Court is authorized to accept written communication through fax and email.
8. **Through May 4, 2020**, the Knox City Court clerk is authorized to accept filing of documents and payment of fines and judgments by a drop box in City Hall in lieu of in-person filing or payments. Electronic and mail payments shall still be accepted. Knox City Court will maintain sufficient operations to process emergency matters, mail received, and receipt of payments for fines and judgments.
9. **Through May 4, 2020**, Knox City Court is authorized to suspend issuing failure to pay/appear notices and license suspensions.
10. Knox 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 3/24/2020.



Loretta H. Rush
Chief Justice of Indiana