



Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan



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For Immediate Release

**Contact: Hon. Timothy M. Kenny, Chief Judge
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Subject: State of Emergency- COVID- 19 Coronavirus

Detroit, MI – “During the state of emergency as declared by Governor Whitmer, the Third Circuit Court will take steps to keep the public, jurors, litigants and court staff updated about efforts to deal with COVID-19. (Coronavirus) The Court will continue to treat the issue seriously, and will monitor the situation through contact with local public health officials.

At this time, in order to lower the risk of exposure to COVID-19, judges will exercise their discretion in the handling of court business. In an effort to address the evolving state of emergency as effectively as possible, beginning Monday, March 16, 2020, judges will:

- Continue to conduct all in-custody criminal and juvenile jury trials as scheduled,
- Continue to conduct all in-custody and not in-custody criminal and juvenile bench trials as scheduled, and
- Adjourn all civil and non in-custody (bond) criminal and juvenile jury trials scheduled through Monday, March 30, 2020.

In addition, judges will:

- Conduct remote hearings whenever possible. Conference calls, zoom technology, etc. will be used whenever practical.
- Adjourn hearings with ill or medically vulnerable persons.
- Adjourn trials if attorneys, parties, jurors or necessary witnesses are ill or demonstrate symptoms of illness.
- Work in collaboration with the Wayne County Sheriff’s Department to increase video conferencing with the Criminal Division

Everyone is urged to take preventative measures to reduce the risk of the spread of the virus to co-workers, family, friends and the public. Visit Michigan.gov for additional information.

If you are sick and a litigant, witness or juror, notify the appropriate courtroom, but do not come to court. If while in the courtroom you see someone who appears to be sick, notify courtroom staff.

This protocol shall remain in effect until further notice from the Court. Updates will be available on 3rdcc.org.

The Mission of Third Judicial Circuit Court is to provide accessible and equal justice with timely dispute resolution. **The Third Judicial Circuit** has jurisdiction over Civil, Criminal, and Family matters arising in the County of Wayne. The National Center for State Courts has cited the Third Circuit Court as one of the model urban courts in the United States for case flow management and the timely disposition of the Court's docket. For more information, visit our website www.3rdcc.org, follow us at Twitter@3rdccorg, and like us on Facebook @3rdccorg.