



Honorable Cynthia Thomas Walker, Chief Judge  
Honorable Preston G. Thomas, Chief Judge ProTempore  
Honorable Michael C. Martinez, District Judge  
Honorable Ronda Fowlkes Gross, District Judge

### **Declaration of Emergency Measures to Reduce COVID-19 Risk**

On March 15, 2020, the Michigan Supreme Court authorized implementation of emergency measures to enable continued trial court services while mitigating the risk of further transmission of COVID-19. The following changes in 50th District Court operations are effective at 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 in order to provide the greatest protection to those who work and conduct business at our court:

- All felony cases will proceed as scheduled
  - In-custody felony arraignments and probable cause conferences will be conducted by video conferencing if available.
- In-custody misdemeanor cases will be handled as follows:
  - In-custody misdemeanor arraignment, pretrials and other hearings will be conducted by video conferencing if available.
  - In-custody misdemeanor bench trials and jury trials will be conducted in the normal fashion.
  - Judges will review bonds on in-custody misdemeanor cases to determine if bond modifications are appropriate on a case-by case basis.
  - Jury selection and jury trials for April 7-9 may be rescheduled. Contact the court for further information.
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- Judges will exercise discretion in limiting the number of persons in their courtrooms to facilitate social distancing as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

All other cases will be adjourned for at least 30 days with the exception of:

- Landlord-Tenant matters involving health hazards or lockouts
- Objections to garnishments

- Motions to set aside default judgment (but only when filed with an objection to garnishment)
- Motions for installment payments
- Probation violation hearings alleging violation of a no-contact order

Filing of pleadings in civil and criminal cases may be accomplished by mail or by dropping off pleadings at the 50th District Court.

Traffic ticket payments will not be affected. Payment can be made online, by mail or by dropping payment (NO CASH PLEASE) in the 50th District Court drop box located outside the main entrance.

The Probation Department will modify certain services and persons affected will be notified.

Persons with scheduled weddings may either reschedule or have the wedding conducted at the scheduled time, but only the bride, groom and two witnesses will be permitted at any ceremony held after March 17, 2020. No new weddings will be scheduled while the State of Emergency is in effect.

The court will remain partially staffed during the State of Emergency and will respond to phone calls, emails or other communications as quickly as possible.

We are very concerned about the health and safety of our 50th District Court staff and those who are doing business with the court. Individuals seeking adjournments during this State of Emergency should contact the court to reschedule. Please check the court before coming to make sure your hearing is still scheduled:

- Use the website [50thdistrictcourt.com](http://50thdistrictcourt.com) for updates and to check dockets or to resolve your case online.
- Contact the court using the following numbers:
  - Criminal Division (248) 758-3820
  - Traffic Division (248) 758-3878
  - Civil Division (248) 758-3880
  - Court Administration (248) 758-3815

This order is subject to change.

Dated: March 16, 2020



Cynthia Thomas Walker, Chief Judge