

MICHAEL K. McNALLY
DISTRICT JUDGE

JAMES K. KERSTEN
DISTRICT JUDGE

JENNIFER COLEMAN HESSON
DISTRICT JUDGE

STATE OF MICHIGAN



AMY ZAWACKI
COURT ADMINISTRATOR

SHANE MAC INTYRE
SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

33rd JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

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33rd District Court's COVID-19 Contingency Plan

On March 10, 2020, Governor Whitmer declared a state of emergency and urged everyone to take preventive measures to lower their risk and protect coworkers, family, and friends from the spread of COVID-19. The 33rd District Court is heeding this advice and taking action to lower the risk to litigants, court staff, and the public who visit our Court. We are also committed to making sure that our justice system continues to operate. Accordingly, the 33rd District Court implements the following temporary procedures:

Payments

In person payments will not be accepted. Payments can be made by phone, online, or through the mail – by check, cashier's check, or money order. There is a drop box located at the Security Station in the front lobby. Payment can be dropped in this box during regular Court hours. For your security, please do not drop off cash. Please call the Court if you need an extension to your due date.

Criminal Matters

Criminal jury trials, where the defendant is not in custody, will be adjourned until May 15, 2020, or later. If the defendant is in custody, the jury trial will proceed as scheduled, unless the Judge presiding over the case orders otherwise. If the defendant is in custody, and a jury is not yet scheduled, the presiding Judge may schedule at their discretion.

Criminal pre-trials and traffic misdemeanor pre-trials will be scheduled on or after May 4, 2020, or later. Such hearings currently scheduled will be adjourned to May 4, 2020, or later. If the Defendant is in custody, the pre-trial date should be scheduled to take place earlier than May 4, 2020, on a date set by the assigned Judge.

In custody arraignments shall be conducted via Polycom whenever possible.

In custody felony cases will proceed as scheduled. Out of custody felony matters will be adjourned to May 4, 2020, or later.

Probation Matters

All probation visits (except for the PSI, screening assessment, and initial instruction) shall be accomplished through non-reporting forms, reporting by phone, or reporting by email until May 15, 2020, or later. This shall include Sobriety Court candidates and participants.

All probationers shall continue required drug and alcohol testing.

Community Service deadlines are extended until May 29, 2020, if the date of scheduled completion is before May 29, 2020.

The Court Work Program shall be suspended until May 2, 2020, or later.

Sobriety Court team meetings shall be canceled until May 4, 2020, or later.

Sobriety Court review hearings shall be canceled until May 4, 2020, or later.

Sobriety Court Graduation, scheduled for March 18, 2020, is cancelled.

Civil Infraction Hearings

Informal hearings, pre-formal hearings, and department representative hearings will be scheduled on May 4, 2020, or later. Such hearings currently scheduled will be adjourned to May 4, 2020, or later.

Civil Matters

Civil jury trials will be adjourned until May 15, 2020, or later.

Civil pre-trials will be adjourned until May 4, 2020. Upon the mutual agreement of the parties and the Judge, civil pre-trials may be conducted by telephone. The assigned Judge may require appearance of the parties but, if that is the case, the pre-trial will be adjourned to May 4, 2020, or later, if possible. Pre-trials which have not yet been scheduled will be scheduled to take place on or after May 4, 2020.

Small claims matters will be adjourned until May 4, 2020, or later.

Landlord-Tenant cases with hearing dates after March 17, 2020, shall be adjourned to a date no earlier than April 13, 2020. Starting April 13, 2020, the Court will schedule no more than five cases every half hour.

Vulnerable Persons

Upon request, hearings involving vulnerable persons shall be adjourned to a date determined by the presiding Judge.

Law Day 2020

Law Day, scheduled for May 1, 2020, is cancelled.

The 33rd District Court is closely monitoring developments and will comply with advice from state and county health departments. These procedures will remain in effect until further notice.

The Court may modify dates herein as deemed appropriate.