
State of
Michigan

Local Administrative
Order

Washtenaw County Trial Court and 14A
District Court
Court Closures for Public Health Emergency

C22 2020-03J
P81 2020-03J
D14A 2020-03J

Effective Date: March 16, 2020

This Local Administrative Order (LAO) is issued in accordance with MCR 8.110(C) and upon approval by the State Court Administrative Office. The purpose of this LAO is to temporarily close the business offices of Washtenaw County Trial Court (WCTC) and 14A District Court (14A) (other than for essential services) to the public in recognition of the states of emergency declared by the Governor of Michigan and the President of the United States.

IT IS ORDERED:

1. To combat the spread of disease, given the severity of the risk posed to the public, court staff and other court agencies, and considering the public health recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the business offices of WCTC and 14A shall be closed completely on **Monday, March 16, 2020**. Thereafter, the business offices of WCTC and 14A shall be closed from **Tuesday, March 17, 2020 through Sunday, April 5, 2020**, with exception to the following essential services:
 - In-custody arraignments;
 - Probable cause conferences and preliminary examinations that are not waived;
 - To the extent possible, WCTC will continue to conduct all previously scheduled in-custody hearings. These hearings will take place at 14A-1 Service Center;
 - Hearings involving in-custody juveniles. These hearings will take place Monday through Friday at 1:30 p.m.;
 - Preliminary/emergency hearings involving child protective proceedings;
 - Waiver hearings for youth to be charged as or with the rights attributed to an adult;
 - The initiation of personal protection orders;
 - Hearing on a violation of a personal protection order;
 - Emergency mental health hearings; and
 - Emergency motions on any matter including show cause and injunctive order requests.

2. With regard to criminal matters, due to the Court's reduced ability to obtain an adequate spectrum of jurors and the effect of the recommendations from the above public health organizations on the availability of counsel and Court staff to be present in the courtroom, the Court specifically finds that the ends of justice served by ordering the postponements outweigh the best interest of the public and any defendant's right to a speedy trial.
3. Only essential clerking operations will be processed during the time period covered by this LAO. Please refrain from contacting the court regarding ordinary business issues until Monday, April 6, 2020.
4. **For WCTC only:** All civil and domestic emergency motions and proposed orders should be e-filed using the MiFile system. All other emergency motions and proposed emergency orders identified in Paragraph 1 should be emailed to lctadmin@washtenaw.org. Emergent WCTC questions may also be emailed to lctadmin@washtenaw.org. Petitions for and proposed Personal Protection Orders should be emailed to lppo@washtenaw.org. There will also be a drop box at the entrance near security for all PPO Petitions and proposed Personal Protection Orders only. Forms for personal protection petitions and orders can be found on the SCAO's website: <https://courts.michigan.gov/Administration/SCAO/Forms/Pages/Personal-Protection.aspx>. **For emergency WCTC questions, please contact 734-222-3057.**
5. **For 14A only:** Emergency motions and proposed emergency orders identified in Paragraph 1 should be emailed to 14amotions@washtenaw.org or place in drop box at any of the four 14A locations. If you leave something in the drop box, please email 14ADistrictCourt@washtenaw.org or call 734-484-9664. **For emergency 14A questions, please contact 734-484-9664.**
6. Whenever possible, hearings will be conducted using Zoom technology so that parties and counsel can appear without physically entering the courthouse. In the interest of public health, only the following individuals shall be permitted to enter the WCTC and 14A courthouses (if necessary) during the time period covered by this LAO:
 - Parties and essential case participants to hearings referenced above;
 - Parents of in-custody juveniles for the hearings referenced above;
 - Parties' counsel for the hearings referenced above;
 - Judges, referees, judicial staff and administrator of the Washtenaw County Trial Court and 14A;
 - Essential Court and County staff (including facilities cleaning staff); and
 - Essential law enforcement.

7. Notice of the court closure and how emergency matters and filings shall be accomplished during the court closure shall be given to the public, the court's funding unit and other affected agencies and officials. Notice shall include this LAO being posted to the front door of all courthouse locations and on the courts' websites: <https://www.washtenaw.org/991> and <https://www.washtenaw.org/946>.
8. Nothing in this LAO precludes WCTC and 14A from making case-by-case exceptions in the interest of justice and at the discretion of the court after consultation with counsel and/or self-represented litigants.
9. This LAO does not affect WCTC's and 14A's consideration of civil, family, probate or criminal motions that can be resolved without oral argument or handled by telephone or video conference.

Dated: March 15, 2020.



Carol Kuhnke
Chief Judge Washtenaw County Trial Court
Chief Judge 14A District Court

Order

**Michigan Supreme Court
Lansing, Michigan**

March 27, 2020

Bridget M. McCormack,
Chief Justice

ADM File No. 2020-08

David F. Viviano,
Chief Justice Pro Tem

Administrative Order No. 2020-5

Stephen J. Markman
Brian K. Zahra
Richard H. Bernstein
Elizabeth T. Clement
Megan K. Cavanagh,
Justices

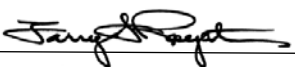
Order Extending Administrative
Order Nos. 2020-1 and 2020-2
Until at Least April 14, 2020

In light of Governor Whitmer's Executive Order No. 2020-21 that temporarily suspends activities that are not necessary to sustain or protect life until at least April 13, 2020, at 11:59 pm, the Court directs that the expiration date of April 3, 2020, in Administrative Order Nos. 2020-1 and 2020-2 is extended until April 14, 2020, or as provided by further order of the Court.



I, Larry S. Royster, Clerk of the Michigan Supreme Court, certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the order entered at the direction of the Court.

March 27, 2020


Clerk