

# STATE OF MICHIGAN



## District Court – 50<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

70 North Saginaw St., Pontiac, Michigan 48342

**Telephone:** (248)758-3800

**Fax:** (248) 758-3888

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

**Court Administrator**  
Lynette M. Ward

## **PUBLIC NOTICE OF 50<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT COURT ORDER**

### **UPDATED EMERGENCY MEASURES TO REDUCE COVID-19 RISK (MAY 15, 2020 UPDATE)**

In light of Governor Whitmer’s executive order directing Michigan residents to “stay home, be safe”, and as authorized by Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 2020-2 and subsequent orders, the 50<sup>th</sup> District Court has updated its Emergency Measures to Reduce COVID-19 Risk. The Court’s priority is the health of all staff and the public. The following measures will be in effect until further order of the Court:

- **IN GENERAL**
  - 50th District Court will close to the general public, but will remain operational during regular business hours to conduct essential court services including case events involving in-custody defendants and other actions deemed as emergencies by the judges. All other case events during this time period will be conducted using interactive video technology or other remote participation tools as practicable; otherwise the matters will be adjourned to later dates.
  - In an effort to remain accessible to the public and to assist with questions, the court phone lines will remain open during regular business hours.
  - Court hearings that are conducted will soon be livestreamed on YouTube. Please check the court’s website for updates and further information.

**To protect the health and safety of staff and court users, for efficient and effective operations to ensure timely hearings and disposition of essential matters, and exercising best efforts under emergency circumstances to provide timely justice in all matters, the following shall apply:**

A. **Criminal Matters** - To the extent possible and consistent with Michigan Court Rules and a defendant's constitutional and statutory rights, the court will use interactive video technology or other remote participation tools as practicable for the following:

1. In-custody criminal defendants - pleas, sentencings, arraignments under MCR 6.104, bond motions under MCR 6.106 or MCR 6.108, probable cause conferences under MCR 6.108, and preliminary examinations under MCR 6.110;

2. Criminal extradition matters for in-custody defendants pursuant to MCL 780.9. The issue of bail will be addressed for those eligible defendants as provided in MCL 780.14;

3. Forensic evaluations for competence to stand trial, competence to waive Miranda rights, and criminal responsibility;

4. Review and determination of requests for search warrants pursuant to MCL 780.651;

5. Review and issuance of arrest warrants pursuant to MCL 764.1a for crimes that present a danger to public safety; and,

6. All other criminal matters, including all non-emergency matters where the defendant is not in custody. All criminal jury trial are adjourned until after June 22, 2020.

B. **Civil Matters** – The Court will use interactive video technology or other remote participation tools as practicable; otherwise, the matter will be adjourned and participants will receive notice of the adjourned date.

C. **Traffic Matters** - The Court will use interactive video technology or other remote participation tools as practicable; otherwise, the matter will be adjourned and participants will receive notice of the adjourned date. No bench warrants shall be issued for individuals failing to appear during the state of emergency

D. **Other Emergency Motions** - At the discretion of the Court, the Court will use interactive video technology or other remote participation tools as practicable; otherwise, the matter will be adjourned and participants will receive notice of the adjourned date.

**For the benefit of court users, see additional details below:**

- CIVIL INFRACTIONS
  - The Court will use interactive video technology or other remote participation tools as practicable; otherwise, the matter will be adjourned and participants will receive notice of the adjourned date.
  - Individuals desiring to dispute the citation may contact the court by phone or through the following websites: Desktop users - [www.50thdistrictcourt.com](http://www.50thdistrictcourt.com). For smartphone users – [www.courtinnovations.com](http://www.courtinnovations.com)
- PROBATION
  - All probationers will report via phone, mail or email until further notice. Probationers should contact their individual probation officer with any questions or concerns.
  - Probation review hearings - the Court will use interactive video technology or other remote participation tools as practicable; otherwise, the matter will be adjourned and participants will receive notice of the adjourned date.
  - For probation violation hearings, probationers should contact their probation officer immediately for further direction.
- SHOW CAUSE HEARINGS
  - All show cause hearings are adjourned.
- GENERAL CIVIL AND SMALL CLAIMS
  - All civil bench trials, civil motions, small claims, and any other miscellaneous civil hearings - the Court will use interactive video technology or other remote participation tools as practicable; otherwise, the matter will be adjourned and participants will receive notice of the adjourned date.
  - Pleadings must be mailed to the court with the appropriate filing fees or dropped off at the court with the appropriate filing fees.
- LANDLORD-TENANT
  - All existing summary proceeding (landlord-tenant) hearings and trials are adjourned to a date after May 15, 2020. Cases are being reviewed subject to the CARES Act, Executive Order 2020-19 and Michigan Supreme Court Orders.
  - New cases will be set for hearing sometime after June 1, 2020, except complaints alleging serious and continuing health hazard, etc., under MCL 600.5714(1)(d) which will be scheduled at the soonest available date, within the discretion of the judges. The Court will use interactive video technology or other remote participation tools as practicable; otherwise, the matter will be adjourned and participants will receive notice of the adjourned date.
  - Evictions are temporarily suspended until June 11, 2020 at 11:59 p.m., consistent with Governor Whitmer’s Executive Order 2020-85 or in the event of a

subsequent Governor's Executive Order extending that date, evictions will be suspended to coincide with the later extended date.

- **PAYMENTS**

- Payments can be made online, by phone, by mail, or at the 50<sup>th</sup> District Court drop box.
- Drop Box; An after-hours drop box is available 24 hours per day, located near the front door of the Courthouse. No cash payment accepted.
- Online: Online payments are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through the website - [www.50thdistrictcourt.com](http://www.50thdistrictcourt.com). Payments can be made using Visa, MasterCard, and electronic check. An Enhanced Access Fee (fee varies with a minimum charge of \$2.50) will be added to your payment.
- Telephone: Telephone payments (Visa, MasterCard, and Discover) are taken 24 hours/day through Government Payment Services (GPS). There is an additional fee for this service (fee varies with a minimum charge of \$10.00). Call 1-888-604-7888 and use the following Pay Location Codes:
  - Code 2001 – Fines and Costs
  - Code 5189 – Probation Fees

**THERE WILL BE NO IN-PERSON PAYMENTS IN THE CLERKS' OFFICE.**

- **CONTACTING THE COURT**

- Use the website [www.50thdistrictcourt.com](http://www.50thdistrictcourt.com) for updates and to check dockets, to resolve a traffic citation online, or to pay fines and costs.
- Call the court using the following numbers:
  - Criminal Division (248) 758-3820
  - Traffic Division (248) 758-3878
  - Civil Division (248) 758-3880
  - Probation Department (248) 758-3811
  - Court Administration (248) 758-3815

**IF YOUR CASE HAS BEEN ADJOURNED, THE COURT WILL NOTIFY YOU OF YOUR NEW COURT DATE BY MAIL.**

*(Due to the fluidity of the pandemic, these measures are subject to extension, revision, or cancellation at any point without advance notice)*

So Ordered:



Hon. Cynthia Thomas Walker, Chief Judge

05-15-20

Date