

STATE OF MICHIGAN



District Court – 50th 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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLIC NOTICE OF UPDATED EMERGENCY MEASURES TO REDUCE COVID-19 RISK

Pontiac, MI – March 18, 2020 – In light of the current State of Emergency, and as authorized by Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 2020-1, the 50th District Court issued its Declaration of Emergency Measures to Reduce COVID-19 Risk on March 16, 2020. The Court's priority is the health of all staff and the public. Effective March 18, 2020, the following measures will be in effect through at least Friday, April 3, 2020. *(Due to the fluidity of the pandemic, these measures are subject to extension, revision, or cancellation at any point without advance notice):*

- **IN GENERAL**
 - The courthouse will be open for essential matters only. The courthouse doors will be locked and security staff will admit persons only as it relates to those essential matters.
 - Persons who are not a party or necessary to a case shall not enter the courthouse.
 - In an effort to remain accessible to the public and to assist with any questions, the court will have limited staff on hand and the court's phone lines will be open during regular business hours.

- **CRIMINAL MATTERS (including TRAFFIC MISDEMEANORS)**
 - Felonies – All felony arraignments, probable cause conferences and preliminary examinations will continue as scheduled. The court encourages all felony hearings to be conducted remotely when appropriate. Attorneys should contact the court to make arrangements.

- Misdemeanors (criminal and traffic) –Trials, pretrials and sentencing hearings will be adjourned unless the defendant is in custody. Bench warrants will not be issued during the period of emergency.
 - Bond violation and bond reduction motion hearings will continue to be heard at the discretion of the Judges and will be scheduled by court staff.
- CIVIL INFRACTIONS
 - All informal/formal hearings will be adjourned.
 - All due dates for pending civil infractions remain in place. Individuals desiring to dispute the citation may contact the court by phone or through the following websites: Desktop users - www.50thdistrictcourt.com; Smartphone users – www.courtinnovations.com.
- PROBATION
 - All probationers will report via phone or mail until further notice. Probationers should contact their individual probation officer with any questions or concerns.
 - All probation review hearings will be adjourned.
 - For probation violation hearings, probationers should contact their probation officer immediately for further direction.
- SHOW CAUSE HEARINGS
 - All show cause hearings will be adjourned.
- GENERAL CIVIL AND SMALL CLAIMS
 - All civil bench trials, civil motions, small claims, and any other miscellaneous civil hearings will be adjourned.
 - 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 1, 2020.
 - New cases will be set for hearing on or after May 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.
- PAYMENTS
 - Payments can be made through the drop box, online or by phone.

- Drop Box: An after-hours drop box is available 24 hours per day located near the front door of the Courthouse. No cash payments accepted.
 - Online: Online Payments are available 24 hours a day 7 days a week through the website 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, Master Card, Discover) 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 for updates, 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.

So Ordered:

CTWalker

Hon. Cynthia Thomas Walker, Chief Judge

03/18/20

Date

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