



STATE OF MICHIGAN
EATON COUNTY TRIAL COURTS

56th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT
EATON COUNTY PROBATE COURT
56A DISTRICT COURT

1045 Independence Blvd.
Charlotte, MI 48813
517-543-7500
www.eatoncounty.org

Hon. Julie H. Reincke
District Court Judge

Hon. Julie A. O'Neill
District Court Judge

Amy M. Etzel
Trial Court Administrator

Kathleen M. Brooks
Deputy Trial Court Administrator

Hon. Janice K Cunningham
Chief Judge, Circuit Court Judge

Hon. John D. Maurer
Circuit Court Judge

Hon. Thomas K. Byerley
Probate Court Judge

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

C56: 2020-05J

D56A: 2020-06J

P23: 2020-05J

COURT CLOSURE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

IT IS ORDERED:

This administrative order is issued in accordance with MCR 8.110(C). The purpose of this order is to close the business offices of the court to the public, other than essential services, in response to the serious health risks posed by COVID-19 and in response to Eaton County offices being closed to the public as of March 17, 2020, upon approval by the State Court Administrative Office.

The business offices of the Eaton County Trial Courts, including: the 56th Circuit, 56A District, Probate, Juvenile and Friend of the Court; will be closed completely from **March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020**, with exception to the following essential services that will be conducted by appointment (hearing notice):

- In-custody arraignments and all in-custody hearings will be held by Polycom. 56A District Court arraignments will be held at 10am and 3:30pm when possible. 56th Circuit Court arraignments will be held at 11am when possible;
 - Preliminary examinations that are not waived;
 - All previously scheduled in-custody hearings;
 - In-custody juvenile hearings will take place;
 - Preliminary and emergency hearings involving child protective proceedings;
 - Youth waiver hearings;
 - Initiation of personal protection orders;
 - Hearings on violations of personal protection orders, bonds or probation terms;
 - Emergency mental health hearings;
 - Emergency motions on any matter including show cause and injunctive order requests;
1. All jury trials will be adjourned to avoid exposing jurors, participants and employees to COVID-19 virus. The postponement of trials by this local order will be excluded from speedy trial requirements.



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2. Personal Protection Orders should be submitted online at circuitcourtclerk@eatoncounty.org. In person filing must be done by appointment by contacting the Circuit Court Clerk's office 517-543-4335.
3. All Friend of the Court hearings will be postponed. The Friend of the Court will handle Facilitative Information Gathering Conferences on new family law cases. These conferences may be handled by telephone or by appointment. Objections to these Conferences may be scheduled before the Referee no sooner than May 1, 2020. Emergency ex-parte matters will be handled by appointment.
4. Whenever possible, hearings will be conducted using Polycom or ZOOM technology so that parties and counsel can appear without physically entering the courthouse. In an effort to adhere to recommendations on limiting the number of individuals permitted in the courthouse, only essential case participants will be granted access.
5. Written waivers for timelines can be submitted to the court with client signature.
6. Any requests to seek adjournments will be reviewed and liberally granted based on recommendations that have been set forth by the Michigan Supreme Court.
7. This LAO does not preclude the Eaton County Trial Courts from making case-by-case exceptions in the interest of justice and at the discretion of the court after consultation with counsel or self-represented litigants.
8. This LAO does not affect the Eaton County Trial Courts consideration of civil, family, probation or criminal motions that can be resolved without oral argument or handled by telephone or video conference.

Notice of the court closure and of how emergency matters and filings shall be accomplished during the closure shall be given to the public, the court's funding unit, and other affected agencies and officials. Notice shall include a sign posted at the court.

Effective Date: March 17, 2020

March 16, 2020

Date


Janice K. Cunningham, Chief Judge