

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 17, 2020

Allegan County
3283 - 122nd Ave
Allegan MI 49010
Contact: Dan Wedge, Executive Director of Services
Phone: 269-686-5150
dwedge@allegancounty.org

Allegan County Reduces Exposure and Continues Services

ALLEGAN COUNTY - Allegan County is following the State of Michigan's recommendation in preventing the spread of the COVID-19/coronavirus to protect the overall public health of our citizens and employees. In addition, we are following the guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Local Public Health. For questions regarding COVID-19 and for public health guidance please call **269-686-4546**.

At this time, Allegan County services remain in operation with service specific limitations. The County is asking to limit the number of visitors to all County facilities. Please attempt to access services over the phone and online resources through www.allegancounty.org.

- Please postpone any non-essential visits.
- If a Court or County office must be accessed in person, visitors are encouraged to call in advance, seek guidance and if applicable establish an appointment time.

Patience is appreciated as additional screening protocols may be put in place to access County facilities. We request everyone's cooperation in following any instructions from posted signage at entrances and within the buildings and offices.

The County is striving to continue serving our residents during the current emergency. Public health and safety are the top priority. We have taken actions to minimize close contact and reduce the spread of germs. Cleaning measures in all buildings have been and will continue to be enhanced. To reduce staff density in work areas while preserving services, the County has arranged for remote work to be conducted wherever possible. All non-essential meetings continue to be cancelled or take place remotely.

Service Specific Updates:

The Allegan County Courts have implemented plans to reduce required appearances and provide more flexibility in effort to minimize close contact. Details are attached.

Community Mental Health (CMH) Services remain staffed with availability by phone which includes urgent screenings. CMH offices are closed to visitors. Please visit www.accmhs.org for more information.

The Sheriff's Office and Corrections Center will have lobby access to the gun permit drop box and is otherwise closed to visitors.

The Youth Home, Medical Care Community and Central Dispatch buildings are closed to visitors.

The Animal Shelter is available by appointment only.

For assistance reaching a County service during these changes, a temporary help center M-F 8:00 a.m. - 5:00p.m. has been established at **269-686-5150**.

-End-

FORTY-EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF MICHIGAN



ROBERTS KENGIS
Circuit Judge

MARGARET ZUZICH BAKKER
Circuit Judge

Phone (269) 673-0300

NOTICE

Governor Whitmer declared a state of emergency in response to the serious health risks posed by COVID-19, trial courts are authorized to implement emergency measures to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus and provide the greatest protection possible to those who work and have business in our courts. Each trial court judge may implement emergency measures regarding court operations to enable continued service while also mitigating the risk of further transmission of the virus. The 48th Circuit Court's emergency measures are as follows:

1. Civil matters will be adjourned and any criminal matters where the defendant is not in custody will be evaluated for adjournment. Where a criminal defendant is in custody, the Court will expand the use of videoconferencing when the defendant consents;
2. In civil cases, the Court will maximize the use of technology to enable and/or require parties to participate remotely.
3. The Court will reduce the number of cases set to be heard at any given time to limit the number of people gathered in entranceways, lobbies, corridors, or courtrooms;
4. The Court will maximize the use of technology to the fullest extent.
5. The Court will waive strict adherence to its adjournment rules.
6. The Court will coordinate with the local probation departments to allow for discretion in the monitoring of probationers' ability to comply with conditions without the need for amended orders of probation;
7. In addition to giving consideration to other obligations imposed by law, the Court will take into careful consideration public health factors arising out of the present state of emergency: a) in making pretrial release decisions, including in determining any conditions of release, b) in determining any conditions of probation;

These emergency measures authorized in this order are effective until close of business Friday, April 3, 2020. During the state of emergency the 48th Circuit Court will take reasonable steps to protect the public. Because information about COVID-19 is changing rapidly the Court will provide updated information and process changes as they are available.

ALLEGAN COUNTY 57th DISTRICT COURT

NEWS RELEASE



113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 (269) 673-0400

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 16, 2020

Contact: Linda Lenahan, Court Administrator lleanahan@allegancounty.org

ALLEGAN COUNTY – Pursuant to the Administrative Order issued yesterday by the Michigan Supreme Court, Allegan 57th District Court today announced it has implemented the following actions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Chief Judge Joseph S. Skocelas and District Judge William Baillargeon are closely monitoring this situation and will make any additional adjustments needed as this matter evolves.

The court's priority is the health of all staff and the public. The court is adjourning all but in custody and emergency hearings. There will be no in-person assistance at the service windows, however the court will remain open for telephone calls, email and ordinary mail. Responding to traffic tickets that do not require a court appearance will continue without interruption by telephone, email or ordinary mail.

Traffic and Criminal Matters:

All hearings where the defendant is not in custody will be adjourned to a date on or after Monday, May 4, 2020 (including arraignments). The court will send a notice to appear for the rescheduled date. If the defendant is in custody, those proceedings will occur remotely.

Payments on traffic and criminal cases may be made online by going to www.allegancounty.org and click on Make a Payment to the 57th District Court. Payments may be made by ordinary mail.

Probation:

Probation reporting will occur by phone or mail. You will be notified by your probation officer.

Civil, Small Claims and Landlord Tenant:

All hearings will be re-scheduled to a date on or after Monday, May 4, 2020. The court will send a notice to appear for the rescheduled date.

Landlord-Tenant: All existing summary proceeding (landlord-tenant) hearings and trials are adjourned to a date after May 4, 2020. The court will send a notice to appear for the rescheduled date. New cases will be set for hearing on or after May 4, 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.

Weddings:

If you have a scheduled wedding, please contact the court to reschedule to a date after May 4, 2020.

Contact Information:

Email: districtcourt@allegancounty.org

Telephone: (269) 673-0400

Mail: 57th District Court, 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010