

PRESS RELEASE

Cumberland County Courthouse Procedures for COVID-19 Coronavirus

The Court has become aware of a positive diagnosis of COVID-19 in Cumberland County. The Cumberland County Courts of the 5th Judicial Circuit will continue to be operating but at a reduced capacity performing only essential functions beginning Tuesday, March 16, 2020 and continuing until further order of the Court. The Cumberland County Courts will take all reasonable measures to minimize personal contact to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. While keeping the courts operational and available to the community, all proceedings must be consistent with public health as well as any further policy directives from federal, state and local public health advisories.

Until further notice, the following Cumberland County cases and court proceedings are **postponed**:

- Civil jury trials
- Traffic cases (TR, DT)
- Misdemeanor cases (CM)
- Probate (P)
- Small claims (SC)
- Family court (F,D)
- Child support
- Law magistrate (LM, L)
- Juvenile cases (JA, JS, J) (except as outlined below)
- Felony cases (CF) (Except as outlined below)
- Ordinance cases (OV)

Parties to the above pending cases who have current court dates set in the next 30 days will be excused from appearing in court. Attorneys or self-represented individuals, in many civil cases, may contact Court Administration at 217-849-3871, for the purpose of conducting status hearings via telephone.

Each party litigant shall receive an amended notice in the mail upon rescheduling. Litigants are directed to ensure that their mailing address is current with the Cumberland County Circuit Clerk. Upon rescheduling, parties may check their new court dates by accessing www.judici.com for Cumberland County, or, by contacting the Cumberland County Circuit Clerk's office by phone at (217) 849-3601.

Emergency matters in the above category cases may be scheduled on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the presiding judge of that case. If you are represented by an attorney, and believe your case involves an emergency matter, please contact your attorney to schedule a hearing. Self-represented individuals shall contact Cumberland County Court Administration at (217) 849-3871 for purposes of scheduling emergency matters.

Any appointments related to the above cases shall be rescheduled or conducted telephonically. Individuals on probation are instructed to contact the Cumberland County Probation Department by telephone at 217-849-2488, for additional instructions related to reporting obligations.

The following court proceedings **will be held** as scheduled, with appearances required for all litigants unless travel or health appearance excuses apply, or, the presiding judge of that case excuses a party's appearance (see below):

- All criminal matters with individuals in-custody
- Criminal felony matter set for:
 - Jury trial
 - Preliminary hearing
 - Bond hearing
 - Motion hearing
- Juvenile temporary custody hearing (shelter care)
- Juvenile detention hearings
- Juvenile Adjudicatory and Dispositional Hearings
- Hearings for Emergency Orders of Protection or No-Contact Orders
- Hearings for Plenary Orders of Protection or No-Contact Orders
- Emergency hearings on family matters (D and F cases) as scheduled by the Court
- Weddings (no guests shall be permitted to attend the ceremony)

In conjunction with IDPH guidelines, **the following individuals should not enter** the courthouse and their appearance in court will be excused if they:

- Have been in any of the following countries with the last 21 days: China, South Korea, Italy, Japan, Iran, or
- Reside or have close contact with anyone who has been in one of those countries listed above within the last 21 days; or
- Have been directed to quarantine, isolate or self-monitor at home for the coronavirus by any medical provider; or
- Have been diagnosed with, or have had close contact with anyone diagnosed with, COVID-19; or
- Have flu-like symptoms including, fever, coughing, sneezing, or shortness of breath

If you are an attorney or litigant and you have a scheduled case or are otherwise required to appear at the courthouse in connection with a court case, but an appearance would be excused because of the health or travel restrictions that have been established, please contact Court Administration at (217) 849-3871 to seek an excusal.