



STATE OF MICHIGAN
17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT

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News Release
17th Circuit Court (Kent County)
Grand Rapids, MI – March 16, 2020

Due to the declaration of the state emergency made by Governor Whitmer and in following the guidance of the Michigan Supreme Court, beginning March 17, 2020 through April 13th, 2020 the **17th Circuit Court** is taking steps to reduce the spread of the COVID 19 virus and eliminating the need for face to face contact with the following steps:

1. For Non-essential hearings:
 - a. The court may issue an order based on the pleadings (no oral argument); or
 - b. Adjourn the hearing; or
 - c. Hold the hearing over the phone.
2. For Essential hearings:
 - a. Hold the hearing through a video feed
 - b. Hold the hearing over the phone
3. For jury trials
 - a. Postpone the jury trial indefinitely.

The 17th Circuit Court will continue to accept Personal Protection Order Petitions.

Certain hearings, as determined by the assigned judge may require a party to appear but only under exigent circumstances.

The Judicial staff will contact anyone with a hearing scheduled to provide instruction on how it will proceed.

The **Friend of the Court** has dismissed or adjourned all of its hearings. The lobby is being closed, and appointments will only be by phone. The public will be given instructions to contact the FOC via phone or e-mail for assistance.

The **Circuit Court Clerks Office** will be taking the following steps:

1. Pleadings must be mailed to the court with the appropriate filing fee. Please do not send cash through the mail.
2. Ex-Parte Pleadings may be submitted to: ccclerksexparte@kentcountymi.gov. Appropriate filing fees must be mailed or waived. More information forthcoming regarding online payments.
3. Restitution payments must be paid on-line at: <https://accesskent.com/CCRemittance/>
4. Certified court records available online at: <https://www.accesskent.com/CCRecords/>
5. No in-person access to records until further notice; call or email for assistance

Do not come to court but communicate with the court by phone if:

- You are sick or have a cough fever
- You have been exposed to someone infected by COVID 19
- You have been out of the country in a place currently experiencing a COVID 19 outbreak

If you have questions please go to this link for contact information for all the departments of the courts and judicial offices:

<https://www.accesskent.com/Courts/17thcc/phone.htm>