

MICHAEL K. COOPER
COLIN G. HUNTER
GEORGE J. MERTZ
Judges

VICTORIA A. COURTERIER
Court Administrator/Magistrate

CATHY VOUGHT
Friend of the Court



STATE OF MICHIGAN

COUNTY OF OTSEGO
46th CIRCUIT COURT
87-A DISTRICT COURT
OTSEGO COUNTY PROBATE COURT
www.circuit46.org

PLEASE REPLY TO:

- 800 Livingston Blvd. Ste 1C
Gaylord, MI 49735
Circuit Ph: (989) 731-0225 ☐
Family Ph: (989) 731-0214 ☐
Probate Ph: (989) 731-0204 ☐
District Ph: (989) 731-0201 ☐
- Friend of the Court:
800 Livingston Blvd. Suite 1A
Gaylord, MI 49735
Ph: (989) 731-7450
- 800 Livingston Blvd. Suite 3B
Gaylord, MI 49735

****** IMMEDIATE NOTICE ******

Due to the Declaration of Emergency by Governor Whitmer regarding the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the 46th Circuit Court (including Friend of the Court and the County Clerk's office), 87-A District Court and the Otsego County Probate Court will be closed to public walk in business. The following will be effective Wednesday, March 18th until May 3, 2020. This policy is subject to extension, revision, or cancellation at any point without advanced notice.

Criminal Cases (Circuit and District Courts)

- The Court will conduct arraignments for incarcerated defendants;
- The Court will review all requests for the authorization of new criminal charges, including the finding of probable cause for arrest warrants;
- The Court may hold Circuit Court status conferences for incarcerated defendants if prosecution and defense counsel are able to appear;
- All probationers, adult and juveniles, shall continue to report as directed by their probation officer. Reporting obligations are subject to be changed depending upon the circumstances as determined by the probation officer;
- The Court will adjourn all scheduled sentencings, but may review bond conditions for all incarcerated defendants;
- The Court will adjourn all scheduled preliminary examinations, but may review bond conditions for all incarcerated defendants.

Juvenile Proceedings (Family Division of the Circuit Court/Probate Court)

- The Court will hear emergency proceedings for child protective cases;
- The Court will conduct the initial preliminary hearing pursuant to court rule for any detained juvenile, via video-conferencing; any adjourned preliminary hearing will be scheduled for a court date following re-opening of Otsego County Courts.

Domestic Relations Proceedings (Family Division of the Circuit Court)

- The Court will review any request by a party for an emergency hearing. Pleadings will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine if an emergency hearing is warranted and the Court will proceed accordingly;
- The Court will review new requests for personal protection orders (PPOs);
- The Court will conduct arraignments on alleged PPO violations when the defendant is in custody;
- The Court will hear parental waiver cases;
- The Court may sign or prepare emergency orders that may be necessary for the safety and well-being of a litigant or child, at the discretion of the assigned judge.

Civil Cases (Circuit, District and Probate Courts)

- The Court will review requests for emergency show cause and injunctive orders.

Probate Matters (Probate Court/Family Division of the Circuit Court)

- The Court will hear involuntary mental health treatment petitions;

- The Court will review petitions for emergency hearings in adult/minor guardianship and conservatorship matters, determined on a case-by-case basis whether an emergency hearing is warranted, and proceed accordingly;
- The Court will review any other petition for temporary/emergency relief (such as temporary restraining orders, etc.), determined on a case-by-case basis whether an emergency hearing is warranted, and proceed accordingly.

Sobriety/Drug Treatment Court

- Group review hearings will be conducted on a limited basis as determined by the probation officer;
- Team meetings may be facilitated through teleconferencing if deemed necessary by the assigned judge;
- Monitoring shall be conducted by telephone unless the participant is otherwise notified by the probation officer;
- Treatment agencies shall direct participants on their own protocols for any required treatment sessions;
- Drug and alcohol testing shall proceed as may be directed by the Court or probation officer.

Miscellaneous Proceedings:

- The Circuit Court will hear all infectious disease cases brought by the local health department;
- All court events not stated above are suspended until Monday, May 4, 2020 and will be rescheduled on a case-by-case basis. This includes District Court arraignments for those not incarcerated, landlord/tenant cases, pre-trial conferences and small claims cases. All parties scheduled to appear for a suspended court event will receive a new notice to appear;
- No jury panels will be called in until the week of May 4, 2020;
- Please be advised that Clerk operations will be staffed to handle emergency services. Non-emergency services will be processed as staffing levels permit, as determined by Court Administration;
- If an emergency filing as outlined above is necessary, please contact the appropriate court division as follows:

Otsego County Clerk – (989) 731-7500
 Friend of the Court – (989) 731-7450
 Probate Court – (989) 731-0204

We understand that this is a unique and unprecedented situation and want to do everything we can to ensure the safety of our staff and everyone who comes to the court. Please do not come to the court if:

- You are sick
- Have been exposed to someone who has been sick
- Have a compromised immune system
- Have travelled internationally within the last 14 days

Visitors to the courthouse will be restricted to only those individuals scheduled for a court date. If your presence is required, please make sure that you are utilizing best practices of hand washing and sanitizing and practicing social distancing with those you may come into contact with. If you cannot attend your scheduled court proceeding due to illness, contact the court as soon as possible by calling (989) 731-0201.

Staff is available to answer phones, process payments and respond to online requests. Court users may make payments by phone or online at www.otsegoountymn.gov or www.circuit46.org.