State of Michigan

27th Judicial Circuit Court

County of Newaygo

County of Oceana

The 27th Circuit Court for Newaygo and Oceana, 78th District Court for Newaygo and Oceana, Oceana County Probate and Newaygo County Probate are committed to protecting the health of the litigants, attorneys, witnesses, jurors, the public, and court staff. The courts are also committed to continuing to provide access to the courts and performing our critical functions. Following Governor Whitmer's declaration of a state of emergency, the Michigan Supreme Court, which oversees the operations of county courts, published several recommendations for courts across Michigan to adopt to help stop the spread of COVID-19. The courts in Newaygo and Oceana County are adopting those recommendations after consultation with District #10 Health Department, Emergency Managers and Administration in Oceana and Newaygo County.

Efforts are being made to keep the courthouses and county buildings clean and sanitized. Maintenance staff and court employees are following the recommendations and taking steps to sanitize the public and private areas in the courthouse and county buildings throughout the day. Employees that have symptoms of COVID-19 are being asked to stay home until those symptoms are gone. I ask that members of the public, litigants, and attorneys who are not feeling well to stay home and contact the court to reschedule their court business. All public and private entrances will have signage advising if the individual has traveled to Italy, Japan, South Korea, or China, have had close contact with anyone who has traveled to those countries within the last 30 days, been self-quarantined, they should not enter the building and should call Spectrum Health's virtual screening line at 616.391.2380. Furthermore, if the individual is not feeling well, has respiratory problems, or symptoms of COVID-19they should also return home and call the virtual screening number. Individuals that fall into the above categories that are seeking an emergency order or personal protection order will be given the opportunity to submit their pleadings electronically. Everyone entering the buildings is expected to use the provided hand sanitizer before entering. If they have a sensitivity to hand sanitizer they will be directed to the lavatory to wash their hands with soap and water following the placards in the lavatories.

Consistent with the recommendations from the Supreme Court all proceedings involving vulnerable persons, civil jury trials, and criminal jury trials where the defendant is not incarcerated will be cancelled for the next 60 days. A reevaluation will occur after 60 days. The decision to adjourn jury trials for those incarcerated will be evaluated on a case by case basis. The courts are taking steps to reduce the number of people in a courtroom at the same time. Courts are modifying their dockets to limit the number of cases that are scheduled at the same time or close together. Many of the civil conferences that previously required the attorneys and their clients to attend in person will be conducted by phone, video conferencing, or conducted in writing between the parties and submitted to the court. I am requesting that those attending a session of court follow the recommendation for "social spacing" and sit at least six feet apart, if possible.

These changes may be inconvenient but are necessary to follow the recommendations from public health officials in a state-wide effort to stop the spread of COVID-19. If you have any questions about a court date please contact the court your case is scheduled in. Oceana County Circuit Court 231.873.3977, Oceana District Court 231.873.4530, Oceana Probate Court231.873.3666, Newaygo County Circuit Court 231.689.7252, Newaygo County District Court 231.689.7257, Newaygo County Probate Court 231.689.7270. Other inquiries should be directed to Wendy Jarvis, Trial Court Administrator at 231.689.7251.

Robert D. Springstead Chief Judge