

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, June 24, 2021

In response to updated guidance from the Michigan Supreme Court, Michigan State Court Administrator's Office, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and in accordance with the recommendation of local public health officials, the Oceana County Courts are able to increase in-person access to court operations. Attorneys, public, and law enforcement, regardless of vaccination status, are not required to wear face coverings. Judges retain the discretion to require individuals in the courtroom to use masks generally or in specific cases, particularly cases involving persons who are at an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Employees and visitors to the courts will not be screened for COVID-19 symptoms.

As of Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, the general public will be permitted access to the Oceana County Building.

- **General Court Business-**
  - **District Court:** 8:00 am -5:00 pm, Monday-Friday
  - **Circuit, Juvenile & Probate Court:** 9:00 am -5:00 pm, Monday-Friday
  - **Friend of the Court:** 8:00 am -5:00 pm, Monday-Friday
  
- **Scheduled Hearings-** Court proceedings will be scheduled using a hybrid model of in-person and remote hearing appearances, consistent with Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 2020-6. Anyone with a scheduled hearing or pending court matter should follow the instructions on the notice they receive. Future hearing notices will be provided via the US mail, or by electronic notification, with specific instruction on how to appear.
  - **Zoom Hearings-** Anyone receiving a hearing notice to appear via Zoom should follow the instructions contained in their notice regarding how to appear remotely.
  - **In-person Hearings-** The court will continue to send out specific notices to appear in-person. Hearing notices will indicate the scheduled time of hearing.
  
- **Jury Trials-** If you receive a juror summons, please follow the instructions on the summons to appear in-person
  - Circuit/Family/Probate/District Court- Scheduled to resume in-person immediately.

The public is encouraged to continue to utilize email and/or phone communication, and electronic payment options.

Court officials will continuously monitor local COVID-19 data and adjust plans related to staffing and public access to court facilities, as needed. We appreciate your continued patience and understanding during this period of transition.

### **For further information, contact:**

27<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court: 231-873-3977

Circuit Court Collections: 231-873-6707

Juvenile Court: 231-873-3811

Friend of the Court: 231-873-4605

78<sup>th</sup> District Court:

Civil Division: 231-873-6721

Criminal/Traffic Division: 231-873-6725/231-873-6718

Probate Court Questions: 231-873-3666