

COURTHOUSE PROCEDURE FOR COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS

The Edgar County Circuit Court will continue to be operating but will take all reasonable measures to minimize personal contact to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus. While keeping the Court operational and available to the community, all proceedings must be consistent with public health as well as any further directives from Federal, State and Local Health Advisories.

Further the Court System is subject to the following terms:

(1) A Judge will be available in person to hear all matters determined by the Court as emergencies.

(2) Bail hearings will be conducted on the schedule previously set.

(3) If a matter is continued, the litigant and his or her attorney shall receive an amended notice in the mail upon rescheduling the case as provided below. Litigants are directed to insure that their mailing address is updated and current through the Circuit Clerk's Office.

(4) **Criminal Division** – (a) All Traffic, Criminal Misdemeanors, Driving Under the Influence, Conservation Violation, and Ordinance Violation cases are continued to a date to be set by the Court and notice will be sent to the last known address of each defendant. Litigants are encouraged to also check on Judici with the local Circuit Clerk's Office for their rescheduled court dates. Any motion involving a Statutory Summary Suspension remains as set. All matters with individuals in custody shall remain as set. (b) Plea agreements for any of the above cases or felonies will be scheduled as requested. Any plea previously set for hearing will remain as set. (c) Criminal Felony cases will remain as scheduled (Bond hearings, appointment of counsel, Preliminary hearing and Arraignment). Continuances may be given for felony pre-trials with agreement of the State's Attorney's Office and defense counsel. If a Defendant is not represented, a continuance of a felony pre-trial may be entered and notice will be sent to the defendant at his last known address. (d) Jury Trials will continue as scheduled for those defendants in custody or who have filed a speedy jury demand.

(5) **Juvenile matters** – Juvenile temporary custody (shelter care), Juvenile detention hearings, Juvenile Adjudicatory and Dispositional hearings shall remain as set. Any other juvenile cases shall be continued and notice will be sent. .

(6) **Civil** – including Dissolution, Family, Law, Chancery, Miscellaneous Remedy, Small Claims and other civil cases not previously specified. Matters determined by the Court as emergencies will be heard in person or by telephone conference. Discovery in civil matters will continue as scheduled. All cases,

including motion and pleadings, may continue to be filed in a manner consistent with the Supreme Court Rules.

All other matters shall be postponed and rescheduled provided, however, that the Court has the discretion to conduct such hearings in person or via telephone and if so, will advise the attorneys and litigants accordingly.

(7) **Protective Orders** – All Emergency and Plenary Orders of Protection, Civil No Contact Orders and No Stalking Orders will continue to be schedule and heard.

(8) **E-filing** – All persons are encouraged to file all pleadings, petitions and motions by electronic filing through the Office of the Circuit Clerk.

(9) **Payment of Fines and Costs** – People may go to the Circuit Clerk's Office during regularly scheduled time to pay Fines & Costs.

(10) **Marriages** – Any marriage that is previously been scheduled will be held at the scheduled time. The Court will continue to schedule new marriages but all marriages will proceed only with the couple being married present. There shall be no guests.

(11) **Jurors** – Efforts have been made to reduce the need for jurors. (All April Jury settings have been continued). In the event that jurors are needed, they will be notified by the Circuit Clerk's Office. If any juror is ill (flu-like symptoms), they shall call the Circuit Clerk's Office and they will be excused.

(12) **Emergencies** – Matters determined by the Court as emergencies will be heard in person or by telephone conference.

(13) **Other** – Non essential gatherings, meetings and travel are canceled.

Applicable to all Proceedings – All litigants and parties are to prohibit any family members, friends or children to attend unless they are necessary for the court appearance, or they have obtained a waiver for them to attend from the Court Administrator.

The following individuals should not enter the Courthouse and their appearance in Court will be excused if:

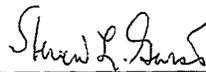
- Have been in any of the following countries within the last 21 days; China, South Korea, Italy, Japan, Iran or
- Reside or have close contact with anyone who has been in one of those countries listed above within the last 21 says; or

- 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 the Court Administration at 217/466-7473 to seek a waiver and to reschedule the hearing. If you are unable to appear at a court hearing under these circumstances, and your hearing has not been postponed, you may call the Circuit Clerk's Office or the Court Administrator to have the hearing rescheduled. .

The Court may issue further orders regarding this matter as necessary to address the circumstances arising from this pandemic.



STEVEN L. GARST, Presiding Judge