



Honorable Duncan M. Beagle
Honorable F. Kay Behm
Honorable Celeste D. Bell
Honorable Joseph J. Farah
Honorable John A. Gadola

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DUNCAN M. BEAGLE - CHIEF JUDGE
BARBARA A. MENEAR - COURT ADMINISTRATOR

Honorable Elizabeth A. Kelly
Honorable Mark W. Latchana
Honorable David J. Newblatt
Honorable Brian S. Pickell
Honorable Michael J. Theile

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 19, 2020

The Genesee County Probate Court and 7th Judicial Circuit Court, 900 S. Saginaw Street and the 67th District Court, 630 S. Saginaw Street, Flint, MI 48502 are closed to the General Public Except for Essential Functions Involving Health and Safety and Constitutional Rights

Flint, MI, March 19, 2020 – The Genesee County Probate Court, 7th Judicial Circuit Court and 67th District Court today announced that access to courtrooms and other spaces is now limited to no more than 10 persons, including staff, effective immediately. The court is closed to the general public except for essential functions involving health and safety and Constitutional rights.

To confront this unprecedented public health crisis, the Michigan Supreme Court issued [Administrative Order 2020-2](#), which highlights in specific detail essential functions. This order supersedes any previously issued Local Administrative Orders regarding the crisis.

“Courts statewide are taking this step in unison so that we send a clear message to the public that we are taking every possible step to stop the virus while continuing to provide essential services,” said Duncan M. Beagle, Chief Judge, Genesee County Probate and 7th Judicial Circuit Court. “Our team is adjusting as quickly as possible to the crisis, and we appreciate the support of the public as we work to put more court business and information online in the coming days.”

Essential functions include arraignments and sentencings for in-custody defendants, review and determination of requests for arrest and search warrants, personal protection orders, certain juvenile and child protective proceedings, injunctive and emergency relief, emergency pick up orders for mental health treatment, emergency guardianship proceedings and other time sensitive matters related to a protected individual, emergency petitions filed by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and petitions for immediate funeral/burial arrangements, among others specified in the order.

The new order also provides courts with additional flexibility to conduct business using technology such as video and telephone conferencing. Visit the [Judiciary Response to COVID-19 page](#) for additional information.

“Our staff looks forward to providing the essential services to the public during this time of crisis,” said Chief Judge Christopher R. Odette, 67th District Court.

7th Judicial Circuit Court: <https://7thcircuitcourt.com/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/>

Genesee County Probate Court: <http://gcprobatecourt.com/>

67th District Court: <https://67thdc.com>