



MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

BRIDGET M. McCORMACK
CHIEF JUSTICE

MICHIGAN HALL OF JUSTICE
925 WEST OTTAWA STREET
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48915

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 23, 2020

TO: Chief Judges
cc: Court Administrators
Probate Registers

FROM: Chief Justice Bridget Mary McCormack

RE: Essential Functions

A few moments ago, Governor Whitmer signed an [executive order](#), directing Michigan residents to “stay home, stay safe,” and further restricting nonessential business and travel starting at midnight tonight and for at least the next three weeks. Please, be aware that under this order, the Michigan Supreme Court [Administrative Order 2020-2](#) remains in effect. As described in AO 2020-2, trial courts must continue to operate to provide essential functions.

Since AO 2020-2 was issued on Wednesday, March 18, judges and court staff have worked very hard to retool their operations to fulfill essential services while complying with orders to practice social distancing and to limit assemblages in court facilities to no more than 10 persons. Thank you for stepping up in this crisis, working with funding units, coordinating with employees, and implementing virtual processes to continue serving the public.

As the crisis has grown, Michigan’s courts have shown they are equal to the challenge of both reducing exposure to risk in court facilities while simultaneously expanding processes that ensure access to courts remains uninterrupted. For that, my colleagues and I are very proud of our judiciary and the talented professionals who are dedicated to making sure those who depend on us in an emergency can continue to be served.

As conditions change, I will reach out to you immediately.