

# 54-A DISTRICT COURT

124 W. Michigan Ave., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor City Hall, Lansing, MI 48933

DISTRICT JUDGES  
LOUISE ALDERSON  
STACIA BUCHANAN  
CYNTHIA M. WARD  
KRISTEN D. SIMMONS



Court Administrator  
ANETHIA O. BREWER

Magistrate  
LAURA A. MILLMORE

## ORDER REQUIRING ADJOURNMENT OF JURY TRIALS AND HEARINGS WITH VULNERABLE PEOPLE

At a session of said court  
held in the 54-A District Court, in the City of Lansing,  
County of Ingham  
This 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) identified the first two presumptive-positive cases of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19); and

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, Governor Whitmer declared a state of emergency across the State of Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, in correspondence sent to Michigan trial courts by Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack, the chief justice recommended that if the governor declared a state of emergency, trial courts should consider adjourning jury trials and adjourning hearings with vulnerable people. This includes seniors (60+) and people with underlying health conditions such as lung disease, diabetes, asthma, heart disease or a weakened immune system who are at highest risk for COVID-19 complications.

**THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that all criminal jury trials involving vulnerable persons, shall be adjourned until such time the state of emergency is lifted. The request must be initiated by or on behalf of the vulnerable person.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that all hearings with vulnerable persons may be adjourned (postponed) upon request. The request must be initiated by or on behalf of the vulnerable person.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that upon the discretion of the presiding judge, any civil case may be adjourned upon the request of any party. The request must be initiated by or on behalf of the party making the request.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that defendants in a criminal case that are not in custody

"Equal Opportunity Employer"

MAIN COURT NUMBER  
(517) 483-4433

TRAFFIC-CRIMINAL DIVISION  
(517) 483-4445

CIVIL DIVISION  
(517) 483-4426

PROBATION DIVISION  
(517) 483-4424

[www.54Adistrictcourt.com](http://www.54Adistrictcourt.com)

may have hearings adjourned upon request. The request must be initiated by or on behalf of the party making the request

Dated: March 12, 2020



---

Honorable Louise Alderson  
Chief Judge

"Equal Opportunity Employer"

MAIN COURT NUMBER  
(517) 483-4433

TRAFFIC-CRIMINAL DIVISION  
(517) 483-4445

CIVIL DIVISION  
(517) 483-4426

PROBATION DIVISION  
(517) 483-4424

[www.54Adistrictcourt.com](http://www.54Adistrictcourt.com)

# 54-A DISTRICT COURT

124 W. Michigan Ave., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor City Hall, Lansing, MI 48933

DISTRICT JUDGES  
LOUISE ALDERSON  
STACIA BUCHANAN  
CYNTHIA M. WARD  
KRISTEN D. SIMMONS



Court Administrator  
ANETHIA O. BREWER

Magistrate  
LAURA A. MILLMORE

## ORDER REGARDING THE ENTRY OF BENCH WARRANTS AND DEFAULTS

At a session of said court  
held in the 54-A District Court, in the City of Lansing,  
County of Ingham  
This 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) identified the first two presumptive-positive cases of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19); and

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, Governor Gretchen Whitmer declared a state of emergency across the State of Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, in correspondence sent to Michigan trial courts by Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack, the chief justice recommended that if the governor declared a state of emergency, trial courts should consider not issuing defaults or bench warrants for individuals who fail to appear in court during the state of emergency.

Therefore, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that until the state of emergency is lifted, a bench warrant should not be issued for an individual who failed to appear in court unless the court determines that the individual is not vulnerable.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that until the state of emergency is lifted, except for summary proceeding cases, a default shall not be entered on a civil case where the individual failed to appear unless the court determines that the individual is not vulnerable.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that until the state of emergency is lifted, a default judgment shall not be entered on a traffic civil infraction case where the individual failed to appear in court for an informal or formal hearing unless the court determines that the individual is not vulnerable.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that a default judgment will enter on a traffic civil infraction

"Equal Opportunity Employer"

MAIN COURT NUMBER  
(517) 483-4433

TRAFFIC-CRIMINAL DIVISION  
(517) 483-4445

CIVIL DIVISION  
(517) 483-4426


PROBATION DIVISION  
(517) 483-4424

[www.54Adistrictcourt.com](http://www.54Adistrictcourt.com)

case if the individual did not answer the citation within the period set forth on the citation.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that until the state of emergency is lifted, if an individual advises that because of being in a vulnerable state, the individual was unable to answer the citation within the specified time set forth on the citation, the court shall set aside the default judgment and schedule the matter for a hearing.

Dated: March 12, 2020

  
Honorable Louise Alderson  
Chief Judge

"Equal Opportunity Employer"

MAIN COURT NUMBER  
(517) 483-4433

TRAFFIC-CRIMINAL DIVISION  
(517) 483-4445

CIVIL DIVISION  
(517) 483-4426

PROBATION DIVISION  
(517) 483-4424

[www.54Adistrictcourt.com](http://www.54Adistrictcourt.com)

# 54-A DISTRICT COURT

124 W. Michigan Ave., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor City Hall, Lansing, MI 48933

DISTRICT JUDGES  
LOUISE ALDERSON  
STACIA BUCHANAN  
CYNTHIA M. WARD  
KRISTEN D. SIMMONS



Court Administrator  
ANETHIA O. BREWER

Magistrate  
LAURA A. MILLMORE

## ORDER REQUIRING THE USE OF VIDEO CONFERENCING FOR INMATES IN THE INGHAM COUNTY JAIL

At a session of said court  
held in the 54-A District Court, in the City of Mason,  
County of Ingham  
This 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) identified the first two presumptive-positive cases of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19); and


**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, Governor Gretchen Whitmer declared a state of emergency across the State of Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, in correspondence sent to Michigan trial courts by Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack, the chief justice recommended that if the governor declared a state of emergency, trial courts should consider implementing a plan for remote hearings whenever possible; and

**WHEREAS**, MCR 6.006 authorizes courts to use video conferencing for proceedings between a courtroom and a prison, jail, or other location;

Therefore, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that effective immediately and until further order of the court, all court proceedings in which an Ingham County Jail inmate is a party to a case shall be conducted via video conference, unless otherwise directed by the presiding judge.

Dated: March 12, 2020

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Honorable Louise Alderson  
Chief Judge P. 2017

"Equal Opportunity Employer"

MAIN COURT NUMBER  
(517) 483-4433

TRAFFIC-CRIMINAL DIVISION  
(517) 483-4445

CIVIL DIVISION  
(517) 483-4426

PROBATION DIVISION  
(517) 483-4424

[www.54Adistrictcourt.com](http://www.54Adistrictcourt.com)