

For Release
March 19, 2020

Judges and Clerk announce COVID-19 Court Procedures

Circuit and Superior Courts and Clerk remain open for limited and necessary matters.

Jasper County Courthouse— March 19, 2020 Judges John D. Potter of the Jasper Circuit Court and Russell D. Bailey of the Jasper Superior Court along with Clerk of the Courts, Kara Fishburn, announce temporarily enacted Court procedures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic while still remaining open to serve Jasper County citizens.

Courts Open on a Restricted Basis

The Indiana Supreme Court directed trial Courts on March 16, 2020 to create and to implement a plan to continue and/or reschedule non-essential hearings (excluding emergency matters, domestic violence hearings, and evidentiary hearings in criminal cases). The Indiana Constitution requires all courts to be open for citizens to seek redress. On March 17, 2020, the Indiana Supreme Court approved the local plan for Jasper County Courts.

Court hearings and availability will continue for persons arrested, juveniles detained or placed outside of their homes, protective orders and emergency family law proceedings for domestic violence, and other necessary matters the Court deems to be an emergency.

Access to the Courthouse for Court Hearings

Only Attorneys, Parties and Witnesses under subpoena will be allowed entry to the Courts on the third floor. Friends, family members and other attendees will not be permitted during the Coronavirus restrictions. No Person will be admitted to the building if they have:

Visited China, Iran, South Korea, any European Countries, or any other high-risk countries as identified by the CDC in the previous fourteen days.

Resided with or been in close contact with someone who has been in any of those countries within the previous fourteen days.

Travelled domestically within the United States where COVID-19 has sustained widespread community transmission.

Been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital, or health agency.

Been diagnosed with or had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or have a fever, cough or shortness of breath. Persons will be screened at the entry point to the Courthouse by Court security.

Filing of Pleadings and Payment for the General Public

The Courts and the Clerk encourage the use of on-line and telephone resources available to the public to conduct business with the Court. Many options are available.

Court Forms with the exception of Small Claims Forms can be located at www.indianalegalhelp.org.

Small Claims forms can be located at www.jaspercountyin.gov.

Protective Order forms are available with Courthouse Security when you come into the Courthouse or by going to www.in.gov/judiciary/iocs/2645.htm.

E-file new cases into the court by going to <https://www.in.gov/judiciary/efile/tyler.html>.

Pay traffic tickets, court cost and fines, probation fees and restitution online at www.govpaynow.com or by calling Gov Pay Now at 888-604-7888 the pay location code (PLC) is 6631. For any questions, please call the Jasper County Clerk's Office at 219-866-4926.

Marriage licenses applications will be by appointment only. Please call 219-866-4926 to schedule an appointment. You can start the application on line at www.in.gov/judiciary/2605.htm. Both of the Courts and the Clerk will not preform marriage ceremonies at the Court or elsewhere until further notice.

Child Support can also be paid locally at Casey's, CVS, Dollar General, and Wal-Mart after setting up a payment account at childsupport.in.gov/pay.

Payments may be made in person at the Courthouse if other options are not available.

The Courts and the Clerk will set up a drop-box for paper pleadings at the entrance of the Courthouse.

Phone First

The Judges and the Clerk of the Courts strongly encourage any person who needs to come to the Courthouse for Court business to phone first. The Clerk can be reached at (219) 866-4926. Many questions as well as many services can be accomplished over the phone.

Additional Information for Media

Jasper County Clerk, Kara Fishburn (219) 866-4926

Jasper County Circuit Court Judge, John D. Potter (219) 866-4941

Jasper County Superior Court Judge, Russell D. Bailey (219) 866-4971