

EUGENE M. VELAZCO, JR.
MERRILLVILLE TOWN COURT JUDGE

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The Court has reviewed the CDC recommendations, the Order from the Emergency Relief issued by the Indiana Supreme Court applicable to the courts of Lake County, dated March 13, 2020, the recommendations contained in the Order of the Indiana Supreme Court dated March 16, 2020, and Executive Order 20-04 issued by the Governor dated March 16, 2020.

The Court has also reviewed its practices and procedures and determined that the practice of scheduling large numbers of cases for the same time must be discontinued immediately. In order to achieve compliance with the recommendations of the CDC and ISDH regarding group size and social distancing the Court will now undertake the following steps:

1. All cases scheduled between March 18, 2020 and May 4, 2020, will be continued to a date to be determined and the defendants will be notified by mail.
2. The maximum number scheduled for any one hearing shall be 50 people at a time.
3. All operations of the Merrillville Town will be temporarily suspended until further notice.
4. Town Hall hours are limited to Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Wednesday and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:00 p.m. to 4 p.m. Currently the building is not open to walk-in.

5. Payments can be made by mail and/or by going to through the internet. Filing with the court can be done by either mail, fax, or email only.
6. Defendant's attorneys having emergency matters that need to be address before full operations are restored may contact the court and request more immediate action on their specific case. Non evidentiary matters may be addressed by remote appearance.
7. The existence of flu or flu-like symptoms or even slight fever in anyone or prior exposure to someone with those symptoms who has or believes may have had COVID-19 shall be deemed sufficient cause for a continuance to be granted.

So Ordered this 18th day of March 2020.

Eugene M. Velazco, Jr.

Eugene M. Velazco, Jr. Judge
Merrillville Town Court