

Defense Counsel:

Effective June 1, 2020, Porter Superior Court #2 will resume Monday morning and Friday morning criminal calls. Cases will be scheduled and procedures conducted consistent with the orders from the Indiana Supreme Court, the Governor of Indiana, the Porter County Commissioners and the Porter County Judiciary relative to the COVID-19 crisis.

Cases will be scheduled and processed as follows:

1. Status hearings, pretrial conferences, change of plea hearings, and agreed sentencing hearings will be scheduled 10 cases at 9:00 a.m., 10 cases at 10:00 a.m., and 10 cases at 11:00 a.m. on Mondays and Fridays.
2. The order setting or continuing a hearing will include both a date AND a time for such hearing.
3. Counsel and Defendants are not to arrive at the Courthouse any earlier than 15 minutes before their scheduled time. Any arrivals earlier than that will have to remain outside the courthouse until the correct timing.
4. Counsel and Defendants will have their temperature taken by Courthouse Security when entering the courthouse. Anyone testing 100.4 degrees or higher will not be allowed entry. Additionally, certain COVID-19 related questions will be asked as a further screening procedure.
5. All Counsel and Defendants must wear masks covering their nose and mouth while in the Courthouse. Any Counsel or Defendant arriving without a mask will be provided with one. **THE COURT ENCOURAGES COUNSEL TO SEE THAT THEY AND THEIR CLIENTS BRING THEIR OWN MASKS.**
6. Security will be given a list of the specific cases in the time frames they will be heard. Defendants shall be directed to the 5th floor, where they will remain in the rotunda until specifically told they may enter the courtroom. The Bailiff will direct them to the correct, socially distanced seating. **Under no circumstances shall anyone enter the Court offices or courtroom without being directed.**
7. Counsel waiting for their hearing to commence may still sit in front of the bar in the courtroom, while practicing social distancing.
8. When a Defendant's case is called, he or she shall remain seated in the assigned seat in the Courtroom, unless summoned to counsel table by the Judge.
9. When a Defendant's hearing is completed, he or she should leave the Courthouse. If counsel wishes to meet with a client after the hearing, it should be done outside the courthouse.

10. Only Defense Counsel and the Defendant will be allowed into the Courthouse. To comply with social distancing, there is not enough space in the courtroom for spectators.
11. If any Counsel has multiple cases on the same day, every effort will be made to schedule these cases during the same hour.
12. The Counsel table will be sanitized before each new counsel comes to the table.
13. The Defendants seating area will be sanitized before the start of each session.
14. Argued sentencing hearings, evidentiary hearings, and other hearings needing extra time will not be scheduled on Monday or Friday morning.
15. This schedule will best work if we all do our best to be here on time and make sure Defendants are on time. In the past, showing up at the scheduled time has been a bit of a juggling act for attorneys with cases in more than one court. Unfortunately showing up too late after your appointed time will have a domino effect, so I am strongly suggesting being on time. We will, of course, work with you as best we can to accommodate your schedules but I ask that you and your clients do whatever you can to be here on time.

If you have any questions regarding this procedure, please call the Court at least 24 hours before your hearing.

Jeffrey W. Clymer, Judge
Porter Superior Court 2