



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VAN BUREN COUNTY COURTS CLOSED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC EXCEPT FOR ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS INVOLVING HEALTH AND SAFETY AND CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

Paw Paw, MI, March 19, 2020 – Van Buren County Courts stands with the Michigan Supreme Court in announcing that access to courtrooms and other spaces is now limited to no more than 10 persons, including staff, effective immediately. The court is closed to the general public except for essential functions involving health and safety and Constitutional rights. The new order also provides courts with additional flexibility to conduct business using technology such as video and telephone conferencing.

To confront this unprecedented public health crisis, the Michigan Supreme Court issued [Administrative Order 2020-2](#), which highlights in specific detail essential functions. The order remains in effect until the close of business Friday, April 3, 2020, or as provided by subsequent order.

“Courts statewide are taking this step in unison so that we send a clear message to the public that we are taking every possible step to stop the virus while continuing to provide essential services,” said Chief Judge Kathleen M. Brickley. “Our team is adjusting as quickly as possible to the crisis, and we appreciate the support of the public as we work to put more business online in the coming days.” For more information on Van Buren County Courts’ emergency plan and how to have matters heard during this closure, please go to our website: <https://www.vbco.org/courts.asp>

Visit the [Judiciary Response to COVID-19 page](#) for additional information.

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