



STATE OF MICHIGAN

Chief Judge
MICHAEL J. DISTEL

Chief Judge Pro Tempore
JENNIEFR L. FABER

61ST DISTRICT COURT

KENT COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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GARY P. SECOR
Court Administrator

TANYA TODD
Clerk of the Court

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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After meeting with all judges today Chief Judge Michael J. Distel announced the following interim actions being taken by the 61st District Court to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- The well-being and safety of court staff and the general public is the court's primary concern. Court is still considered an “essential function” and must even during these challenging times remain open. Modifications are being made to limit staff and public exposure when possible.
- Parties are not excused from scheduled court dates. However, due to recent public safety and welfare concerns we are trying to accommodate various situations. It is imperative that litigants stay in contact with the court.
- We will permit attorneys, prosecutors, witnesses or parties to participate in hearings via video or phone upon request and with court approval. We encourage parties to resolve matters by phone ahead of time.
- A civil case may be adjourned by request of the party with the approval of the judge.
- To reiterate, litigants are not excused from scheduled court dates. However, if a party contacts the court to make other arrangements, we will work with the requesting party to the extent possible.
- We understand that this is a unique and unprecedented situation and we will do all that we can to ensure the safety of all who come to the court. That being said, please do not come to the court if:

- You are sick
- Have been exposed to someone who has been sick
- Have a compromised immune system
- Have travelled internationally within the last 14 days

If you do need to come to court, please make sure that you are utilizing best practices of hand washing, sanitizing and practicing social distancing with those you may come into contact with. Finally, you may also find the following links helpful for up-to-date information about COVID-19:

- [accesskent.com/Health/coronavirus.htm](https://www.accesskent.com/Health/coronavirus.htm)
- [michigan.gov/coronavirus](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus)
- [cdc.gov/coronavirus/](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/)