



STATE OF MICHIGAN

Chief Judge
MICHAEL J. DISTEL

Chief Judge Pro Tempore
JENNIEFR L. FABER

61ST DISTRICT COURT

KENT COUNTY COURTHOUSE
SUITE 3200-A
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GARY P. SECOR
Court Administrator

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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: March 16, 2020

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Chief Judge Michael J. Distel announced today the following additional actions being taken by the 61st District Court in addition to those previously announced on March 13, 2020 (attached) to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- Probable Cause Conferences will continue as scheduled. The court will accommodate written requests for waivers and adjournments.
- Civil Pre-Trial Conferences will only be conducted by phone.
- Window service will remain open and available for in-person payments. This will only include civil infractions, probation payments, payment plans and warrants. **The court highly encourages the use of online-payments during this crisis. Payments can be made at www.grcourt.org.**
- **Effective March 17, 2020 any Landlord Tenant and Small Claims filings will only be accepted by mail and not at the courthouse.**
- All currently scheduled Small Claims and Informal Hearings scheduled after March 19, 2020 will be adjourned until after April 20, 2020.
- All Alternative Sentencing Programs (Work Crew, Work Program and Community Service) are discontinued until April 20, 2020.
- The Probation Office is limiting access and all probationers are to report by telephone. Those scheduled for a pre-sentence investigation or Alternative

Sentencing Services should contact the Probation Department by phone to make arrangements.

- 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/)