

MAR 16 2020

STATE OF INDIANA

CLERK RIPLEY CIRCUIT COURT

IN THE MATTER OF COURTS BUSINESS )

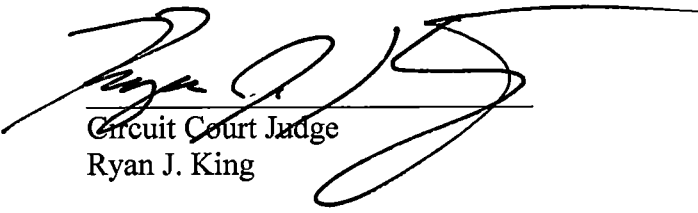
CAUSE NO. 69C01-2003-CB-000022

**EMERGENCY ORDER ON COVID-19**

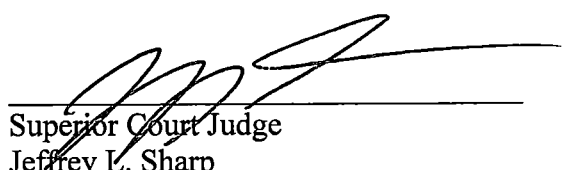
The Circuit and Superior Courts are acutely aware of the COVID-19 ("Corona Virus") outbreak and find that the outbreak requires that the Courts take extraordinary measures in order to continue to provide access to the justice system, while also accounting for the health and welfare of the litigants, employees and the community. The Courts find that President Donald J. Trump has declared a National State of Emergency. The Courts also find that Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb and Ohio Governor Mike DeWine have taken extraordinary action to include closing most areas of congregation. As a result of the outbreak, the Judges of the Ripley Circuit and Superior Courts hereby **ORDER, ADJUDGE, and DECREE** as follows:

- 1) The Circuit and Superior Courts will continue all non-essential hearings.
- 2) If a party believes there is a legitimate emergency, then said attorney must file a motion. Only true emergencies will be entertained and, as a general matter, emergencies are brought in the name of the State of Indiana.
- 3) Only the party and counsel are permitted to enter the Courts.
- 4) Anyone that is ill shall not enter the Courthouse. Anyone who appears ill shall be removed.
- 5) Any Pre-trial hearing held is attorneys only. Attorneys may appear by phone.
- 6) The Courts will permit parties to appear by phone when at all possible.
- 7) The intent of this order is to reduce the number of people in the Courthouse to only the absolute essential bare minimum. This will best protect against COVID-19 spread.
- 8) Ripley County Community Supervision shall modify their normal operating procedure to be consistent with this order.
- 9) This order remains in effect until at least April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020, but very well may continue past that date depending upon the outbreak conditions and as may be necessary to facilitate the safety of the litigants, employees, and the community.

DONE at Versailles, Indiana this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.



Circuit Court Judge  
Ryan J. King



Superior Court Judge  
Jeffrey L. Sharp