

THE CIRCUIT COURT

MANISTEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
415 THIRD STREET
MANISTEE, MICHIGAN 49660
231-723-6664
231-723-1645 (FAX)



BENZIE COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
448 COURT PLACE
BEULAH, MICHIGAN 49617
231-882-9671
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STATE OF MICHIGAN
19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
MANISTEE AND BENZIE COUNTIES

HON. DAVID A. THOMPSON
CHIEF JUDGE

PRESS RELEASE

Re: COVID-19 Guidelines for Michigan's Judiciary

On July 17, 2020, the Michigan Supreme Court amended its Return to Full Capacity COVID-19 Guidelines for the Michigan Judiciary to include:

Court Guidelines for all phases.

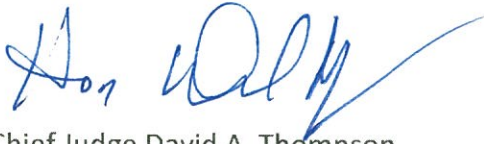
FACE COVERINGS

Face coverings are required for all court employees and court visitors at all times. Limited exceptions include:

- Face coverings are not required for employees while they are in work stations that guarantee 6 ft. social distancing at all times (e.g. private office, separate enclosed work station that is not shared with others).
- Judges are not required to wear face coverings during court proceedings where 6 ft. social distancing is maintained in the courtroom and where court attendees are wearing face coverings at all times.
- Where face coverings cannot be medically tolerated.
- At the discretion of the judge presiding over a court proceeding, face coverings are not required for attorneys while speaking, jurors when they are asking questions, or for witnesses during testimony, where 6 ft. social distancing is maintained, and where court attendees are wearing face coverings at all times.
- Face coverings are required for attorneys unless the judge presiding over a court proceeding determines that the attorney is inaudible and temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to facilitate the creation of an accurate record. The judge may allow the attorney to temporarily remove face coverings while speaking if 6 ft. social distancing is maintained, and where court attendees are wearing face coverings at all times.

If you have questions regarding how these changes may affect you or your client, please contact the appropriate Court Administrator or Probate Register.

Thank you for your anticipated patience during these trying times.



Chief Judge David A. Thompson
19th Circuit Court

19th Circuit Court: (231)723-6664
Manistee & Benzie County

85th District Court: (231)723-5010
Manistee County

Probate Court: (231)723-3261
Manistee County

85th District Court: (231)882-0019
Benzie County

Probate Court: (231)882-9675
Benzie County