

Emergency Pandemic Protocols for Lake Superior Court, Criminal Division

Based upon the pandemic metrics issued by the Indiana State Department of Health, as of November 18, 2020, Lake County is now in the “Red Zone”. Therefore, effective immediately, the Court accepts the recommendations suggested by Governor Eric Holcomb, ISDH, and the Resuming Court Operations Task Force, and will initiate the following protocols:

1. There will be no jury trials.
2. All hearings will be held remotely. The in-person calls will be held at the usual times, but will be held remotely. The in-custody calls will also be held at their usual times, and will continue to be held via zoom. Properly executed written waivers must be filed prior to the proceedings. As an exception to this rule, emergency hearings may be held in court if they cannot be held remotely, but only if specifically authorized by the Court, and the only people who will be allowed in the Courtroom beside Court staff will be the Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, the Defense Attorney, the Defendant, and any essential witnesses.
3. Employees shall be allowed to work remotely, if they are able to.
4. The wearing of facial coverings shall be strictly enforced while in the Government Center.

These protocols shall remain in effect until January 4, 2021.