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James M. Biernat Jr., Chief Judge  
16th Judicial Circuit Court,  
Macomb County Probate Court,  
42nd District Courts



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## *For Immediate Release*

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Date: [March 19, 2020](#)

## Statement from Chief Judge James M. Biernat, Jr., re COVID-19

The Circuit Court takes the current State of Emergency very seriously, and the health of the public and the staff is of the utmost importance. We have taken proactive steps to limit foot traffic in our courthouse, even in advance of the Supreme Court's first Administrative Order on Sunday. The Supreme Court issued Administrative Order issued last night outlining essential trial court operations, which is mostly consistent with the steps we have already taken. We have continued to revisit our processes on a daily, even hourly basis, to respond to the evolving situation. In light of the notification that an attorney who appeared in Court on Monday later tested positive for COVID-19, we have been in contact with the County Emergency Operations Department, the County Health Department, and the State Court Administrative Office. The County is in the process of cleaning and disinfecting affected areas, and several employees who may have had contact with the attorney have been notified and directed to self-quarantine for the next 14 days. The Court is currently conducting only the minimum necessary operations, and limiting public access to address this health crisis.

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