



Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Court

State of Emergency Administrative Order 20-01

Tribal Court is an essential component of our Tribal government, and access to justice is vital to our membership. In an effort to balance that interest with the Court's role in protecting the health and safety of our community by helping slow the spread of COVID-19, Chief Judge Jocelyn Fabry, acting pursuant to Tribal Code § 80.103, and recognizing the state of emergency declared by the Tribal Board of Directors, hereby ORDERS that the following modifications of operations beginning March 23, 2020, through April 5, 2020:

1. Tribal Court will not be conducting in-person hearings, except where in person appearance is necessary. In the event emergency in-person hearings are held, only essential parties to the cases will be allowed into the courthouse during those times. The Court will continue to conduct hearings via video and telephone conferencing in necessary child welfare, criminal, and juvenile delinquency matters. Parties, attorneys, and witnesses in these cases will be notified that they will be required to appear by video or telephone and will be provided with instructions on how to do so. All other non-emergency matters scheduled during the closing will be adjourned, to a later date.
2. Tribal Court will require all filings, pleadings, and other communications to be submitted electronically to tribalcourt@saulttribe.net or by facsimile to 906-635-4952. If an individual is unable to submit filings via email or fax, paper copies will be accepted via mail. For matters that require filing fees, the fees will need to be sent via US mail to: Tribal Court, 2175 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783 and received by the Court prior to the filing being processed, even if the filing is received by electronic means.
3. In accordance with the COVID-19 protocols put in place by the Tribe, Tribal Court offices will be closed to the general public, except by appointment. If you need to access Tribal Court services, including as it relates to tribal election filing requirements or obtaining nominating petitions, please call the Court to schedule an appointment as Tribal Court employees will continue to answer the telephone during this time. In the event you receive our voicemail, please leave your name and number and someone will return your call.
4. If you are currently on probation with Tribal Court, your probation officer will remain in contact with you regarding reporting requirements.

5. If you need to file an emergency personal protection order, please contact the Advocacy Resource Center at 906-632-1808.

6. As previously announced, no jury trials will occur until at least May 2020. No jurors will be required to appear for jury service during this period.

Tribal Court employees will still be available via telephone, email and fax. Staff will be working remotely and Tribal Court will have limited in-office coverage during the closure period.

Date: 3/18/2020



Honorable Jocelyn K. Fabry, P67806
Chief Judge, Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Court