



The Circuit Court
for the Tenth Judicial Circuit of Michigan

DARNELL JACKSON
CHIEF JUDGE, SAGINAW COUNTY

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TO MEMBERS OF THE SAGINAW COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION:

As we continue to struggle with the Delta variant, the Omicron variant, and all the other variants that we hear so much about we are continuing to look at ways to reduce the risks associated with moving forward in our legal system. Recognizing that certain things are outside of our control. To provide context, last October our positivity rate in Saginaw County stood at (10) ten percent and our cases per million were less than (70) seventy. As of last week, our positivity rate was (19) nineteen percent and our cases per million was a whopping (508) five hundred and eight!

In light of those numbers, it appears the coronavirus in its various forms is here to stay and therefore we will need to find ways to live with it and continue doing our jobs. To that end I have decided that the time has come to return to zoom hearings for both civil cases and criminal cases, until further notice.

I would ask you all to pay close attention to notices of hearings that you receive from the court. Hearings will be conducted via zoom, with rare exception. However, when a judge believes that the nature of the case requires the hearing to be held in person in the courtroom, you will be notified of that by the judge and/or staff. I can't tell you how long this (zoom hearing) system will be in place. It is wholly dependent on the status of our COVID related numbers here in the county.

This system is scheduled to go into effect on Monday, December 20th. Should you have any hearings that were previously scheduled to be held in the courtroom, contact the court they are assigned to and ask how you are to proceed.

We appreciate your anticipated cooperation. Should you have any further questions in general about this, please feel free to send me an email and I will respond to you as quickly as possible. Thanx.

Darnell Jackson

Darnell Jackson
Chief Judge, Saginaw County Trial Courts

December 16, 2021