

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Attorney Discipline Board

General Order ADB 2020-2 Regarding Operations in Light of COVID-19

Issued by the Attorney Discipline Board
333 W. Fort St., Ste. 1700, Detroit, MI

In light of the ongoing public health emergency caused by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, and consistent with

(1) the Michigan Supreme Court's [Administrative Orders](#) commencing with 2020-1 (providing guidance to enable courts to provide continued service while also mitigating the risk of further transmission of the virus, including maximal use of technology to enable and/or require parties to participate remotely, facilitation of electronic filing and service to reduce the need for in-person filing and service, and trial court waiver of strict adherence to adjournment rules or policies and administrative and procedural time requirements); and,

(2) the Governor's various [Executive Orders](#);

The office of the Attorney Discipline Board will remain closed to the public until further notice. The staff is working remotely on cases, is monitoring telephone messages left in general and individual voicemail boxes, is monitoring the general email inboxes (including the "contact us" form on the Board's website), and is continuing to process e-filings pursuant to the Board's [E-Filing and E-Service Procedures](#). Responses to communications with the Board via US Mail or fax may be delayed. Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-77, and other gubernatorial orders and directives, personnel may be at the ADB office sporadically to process such communications, facilitate remote work, or otherwise conduct basic minimum operations of the Board. Parties who may not be able to adhere strictly to the Board's e-filing and e-service procedures, should contact the Board for direction regarding how to file, serve, or take other action in a case.

All scheduled panel hearings, prehearing motions, and conferences shall be conducted telephonically or by videoconference until further notice.

Hearing panels shall consider reasonable requests for accommodation of the parties in order to protect the health of the parties, counsel, witnesses, complainants, and the community while advancing cases at a reasonable pace in light of: (1) the circumstances arising from the present health emergency; and (2) the Michigan Supreme Court's Administrative Orders, including AO 2020-14, reiterating that "courts must continue to conduct essential functions, and are expected to use their best efforts to provide timely justice in all matters," and encouraging "[c]ontinued use and expansion of remote hearings" and other online work "as practicable."

Review hearings will be conducted by the Board telephonically or via videoconference until further notice.

The Board shall continue to monitor orders adopted by the Michigan Supreme Court and the Governor of Michigan, the policies adopted by other courts and discipline agencies across the nation, and public health pronouncements by all levels of government, and will issue further orders and directives as further developments occur.

ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE BOARD

By: 
Jonathan E. Lauderbach, Chairperson

DATED: May 13, 2020