

Revised Standing Order for the Detroit Immigration Court

All previous standing orders for the Detroit Immigration Court are hereby rescinded.

March 17, 2020, the Federal Government issued a memorandum directing agencies to minimize face-to-face interactions with members of the public, which is posted at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-16.pdf>. To comply with directives from Federal, State, and County health officials and reduce the spread of COVID-19, it is hereby ordered that the following procedures shall be implemented immediately in the Detroit Immigration Court and shall remain effective until rescinded by a superseding order of the Detroit Immigration Court. This order is made pursuant to Immigration and Nationality Act § 240(b)(1)-(2) and 8 C.F.R. §§ 1003.10(b), 1003.21(b), 1003.25, 1003.29, 1003.31(c), 1003.40.

All parties should continue to monitor the EOIR website at <https://www.justice.gov/eoir> and/or EOIR's Twitter feed at: (https://twitter.com/DOJ_EOIR?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) the latest information on court operating status.

INDIVIDUALS TESTING POSITIVE FOR COVID OR THOSE WITH INFLUENZA OR COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

Under no circumstances shall any individual experiencing symptoms consistent with Influenza or COVID-19 infection enter the Court, including but not limited to the lobby, filing window, and courtrooms. This same restriction applies to any individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19, unless they have been affirmatively advised by an appropriate medical professional that they are no longer contagious. Individuals may be asked questions related to whether they have any of these symptoms and may be denied access to or asked to leave the Court space, depending on their responses. If any individual described in this paragraph is unable to attend an upcoming hearing at which his or her presence is required, he or she shall promptly notify the Court in writing to the Court's email filing mailbox at Detroit.Immigration.Court@usdoj.gov or in an emergency, by telephone to

the Court. The Court may request appropriate medical documentation as deemed necessary.

HEARINGS

Effective immediately and until rescinded or modified by a superseding order, any attorney-at-law for any party may appear telephonically in all detained and non-detained cases within the jurisdiction of the Detroit Immigration Court without approval and without filing a motion in advance.

It is counsel's responsibility to provide a telephone number to the court staff where they can be reached for the hearing and to be available for the court's call. If the Court is unable to reach counsel by telephone for the hearing, counsel will thereafter be required to appear in person at any scheduled hearing.

Parties are encouraged to confer and reach stipulations as to facts and/or legal issues (e.g. 10 years of continuous residence) to facilitate the prompt disposition of cases. Parties are also encouraged to confer and reach agreement on the eligibility for bond and the amount of the bond. Parties should submit affidavits or written statements of witnesses in lieu of the witnesses appearing in court.

UPON ARRIVAL

All persons scheduled before the Detroit Immigration Court should allow sufficient time to clear security, check in with court staff and arrive in the appropriate courtroom by the scheduled hearing time. **All persons must have an appropriate face mask or cloth face covering which adequately covers the wearer's nose and mouth at all times.** As needed, children younger than two years old and those individuals with medical conditions are exempt from this requirement. All other persons without a face covering shall be denied access to or asked to leave the Court space. All persons are also required to comply with any applicable signs or instructions from Court personnel while in the Court and adjacent space.

**FILING OF MOTIONS, APPLICATIONS, BRIEFS,
EVIDENCE, AND OTHER DOCUMENTS FOR DETAINED
AND NON DETAINED PROCEEDINGS**

Routine Filings: First class mail, express delivery services, or email sent in compliance with the guidelines posted at: <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/filing-email>. Parties shall file any and all motions, documents or evidence by prior to any scheduled proceedings in accordance with the Immigration Practice Manual. The Court will continue to accept email filings until **September 11, 2020**. The Court is not accepting email filings that are sixty (60) days in advance of any filing deadline or hearing date. **This limitation does not apply to applications for asylum.** Additionally, any submissions over fifty (50) pages **must** be made by means other than email. Attempts to circumvent the (50) page limit by submitting multiple submissions shall result in the entire submission being rejected. No conformed copy of any filing made through the Court's email will be provided. If counsel wishes to receive a conformed copy, they must follow the procedure set forth in the Immigration Court Practice Manual. Counsel should refrain from contacting the Court by phone or email to confirm receipt of any filing through the Court's email.

Time-Sensitive Filings: All filing deadlines ordered by the Court remain in effect. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, all filings are due in accordance with the deadlines established in the Immigration Court Practice Manual, Chapter 3.1 (b). Untimely filings are subject to the consequences identified in the Immigration Court Practice Manual, Chapter 3.1(d).

This Order will remain in full force and effect until and unless modified by any future order.

Christopher R. Seppanen

Assistant Chief Immigration Judge