

IN THE SAC & FOX TRIBE OF THE MISSISSIPPI IN IOWA TRIBAL COURT
Meskwaki Settlement
307 Meskwaki Road
Tama, IA 52339-9629

**IN RE: CLOSURE OF TRIBAL COURT
OFFICES AND CONTINUANCES DUE
TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY-
COVID-19**

**AO-2020-001

ORDER**

Recently, the Tribal Council for the Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa approved the closure of Tribal Operations beginning on March 18, 2020, to March 27, 2020, in order to limit the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). During a public health emergency, serving the public is a priority for the Meskwaki Judiciary, as is the safety and consideration of its court employees, attorneys, and parties. In order to help curb the potential spread of the coronavirus COVID-19, the Chief Justice approves the following temporary measures listed below.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. All civil and criminal matters presently scheduled for an in-court appearance before the Meskwaki Tribal Court between March 18, 2020, and March 27, 2020, are continued to a later date pending further order of the Court. The Court will inform you of the new date upon the court re-opening.
2. For any civil emergency hearings or criminal hearings for defendants in custody for bond purposes, the Clerk of Court shall schedule hearings as needed by alternate means- such as by video or telephone- and shall notify the parties.
3. Parties may still submit filings to the Clerk of Court by email at clerk.court@meskwakicourt.org and by mailing the original copy by U.S. mail; however, unless an emergency or essential matter, all matters will be addressed once the Court re-opens for normal business. Further, parties may file declarations rather than notarized affidavits, so long as the declaration is dated and contains a concluding statement in substantially the following form: "I declare (or certify, verify, or state) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa and the United States that the foregoing is true and correct."

4. If any party seeks an in-Court proceeding during the time this Order remains in effect, they shall do so by motion showing good cause, and no request will be granted unless the Court is satisfied that protective protocols will be in place and will be adhered to by all participants.
 - a. The following persons are prohibited from entering the Courtroom, court clerk's office, judges' offices or other facility used by the Court:
 - i. Persons who have been diagnosed with or have direct contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19.
 - ii. Persons with symptoms such as fever, severe cough, or shortness of breath.
 - iii. Persons who have traveled to any area with a high rate of COVID-19 and those with whom they live or have had close contact.
 - iv. Persons who are quarantined or isolated by any doctor or who is in voluntarily quarantine.
 - v. If you are in one of these categories (i-iv) and are scheduled for a Court appearance or are seeking emergency relief, contact your attorney, and if you have no attorney, call the Court Clerk's office.
5. The Court may limit the number of persons who may enter the Courtroom, judges' or clerk's office, jury room or any other facility used by the Court.
6. Because of the effect of following public health recommendations on the availability of clients, counsel, and Court staff to be present in the courtroom, the Court specifically finds that the ends of justice are served by continuing all criminal proceedings and outweigh the best interests of the public and any defendant's right to a speedy trial. Case by case exceptions to the continuances implemented by this Order may be ordered at the discretion of the Court.

7. The Court will extend or amend this Order if needed prior to its expiration on March 27, 2020

This Order shall take effect immediately upon signature of the undersigned Chief Justice.

SO ORDERED this 18th day of March 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large initial 'H' followed by several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Henry M. Buffalo, Jr., Chief Justice
Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa
Tribal Court