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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 18, 2020

TO: ALL MEDIA

FROM: JOEL STRASZ, PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

RE: Bay County Courts – Local Administrative Order Limiting Public Access

Bay County, Michigan - In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in an attempt to reduce transmission of this serious virus among members of the community as well as Courthouse staff, the Bay County Courts' Chief Judge has issued a Local Administrative Order ("LAO") substantially limiting public access to the courthouse facilities as well as the type of hearings held by the Court to essential matters only. The essential matters and hearings to be conducted include a limited number of criminal, juvenile and some probate proceedings. Wherever possible the Court will conduct hearings remotely via telephonic, video/telecom or other technology available. All clerking operations are also confined to essential services and admittance to the building will be limited. If you have a pending matter before the Courts and are represented by an attorney, please contact your attorney, rather than the Courts, for further information. A copy of the LAO giving more specific direction as to the essential matters to be covered and who will be admitted to the courthouse is attached to this release and is available on Bay County's website located at <https://www.baycounty-mi.gov/Health/Coronavirus> and the Bay County Courts' website located at <https://baycountycourts.com>

In order to reduce the spread of COVID-19, please follow these recommendations from the Center of Disease Control:

1. Wash your hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.
2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
3. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
4. Avoid handshakes.
5. Avoid contact with people who are sick.
6. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
7. IF YOU ARE SICK, STAY HOME.

For the latest and most accurate information regarding the COVID-19 please go to the Bay County Health Department website at www.baycounty-mi.gov/Health and the Center for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov.