

In the Supreme Court of Iowa

CLERK SUPREME COURT

**In the Matter of Actions
Taken to Reduce FY 2017
Judicial Branch Operating
Expenses**

Supervisory Order

In order to address the current budget shortfall, the supreme court has reluctantly reduced the level of service the judicial branch provides to Iowans. The reductions in services began last year when the initial Fiscal Year 2017 appropriation for Judicial Branch operations was \$178,686,612. This was over \$5 million short of the amount needed to maintain the same level of service to all Iowans as in Fiscal Year 2016. In order to balance the Fiscal Year 2017 budget, this court approved the following actions to be taken:

- Establish a hiring freeze for all vacancies in the judicial branch.
- Hold open judicial vacancies for an average of six months.
- Reduced travel by 10%.
- Reduce furniture and non-IT equipment by 50%.
- Shift some funding for IT operations to the Court Technology Fund.
- Institute a moratorium on the expansion of specialty courts.

In January, 2017, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed Senate File 130, deappropriating an additional \$3 million from the Fiscal Year 2017 operating budget of the Judicial Branch.

In addition to the actions described above, on January 27, 2017, the State Court Administrator announced that in order to balance the Fiscal Year 2017 budget following the passage of Senate File 130 it would be necessary to schedule one court closure day on which all court offices, including clerk of court offices, would be closed and all Judicial Branch employees, except judges and magistrates, would be placed in unpaid

leave status.

Therefore, pursuant to its constitutional and statutory responsibility to administer the courts of this state, the Supreme Court of Iowa hereby orders the following:

1. All court offices, including clerk of district court offices and the office of the clerk of the appellate courts, will be closed and all court personnel except judges and magistrates will be placed in unpaid leave status on May 26, 2017. Judges and any magistrate scheduled to work on this date will work in their chambers or take vacation on this court closure day.
2. In accordance with Iowa Code section 4.1(34) (2017), when the last day for the commencement of an action or proceeding, the filing of a pleading or motion in a pending action or proceeding, or the perfecting of an appeal falls on a day on which the clerk of court office is closed in whole or in part pursuant to the authority of the supreme court, the time shall be extended to include the next day that the office of the clerk of court is open.
3. If a deadline imposed by statute or rule for issuing an order, conducting a hearing, or sending notice falls on a day the clerk of district court office is closed by this order, the time period for such action shall be extended until 4:30 p.m. of the next day the clerk of court office is open.
4. Any duty of filing or issuance of an order or decision imposed by the Iowa Rules of Appellate Procedure that falls on a day that the clerk of appellate courts office is closed pursuant to this order is extended to the next day the office of the clerk of the appellate courts is open to the public.

Dated this 9th day of May, 2017.

THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA

By Mark S. Cady
Mark S. Cady, Chief Justice

Cc:
Members of the Court
Chief Judges
State Court Administrator
District Court Administrators
Clerk of Supreme Court
Clerks of the District Court
Chief Juvenile Court Officers