



1. Iowa courts will be closed on March 20, April 10, April 24, May 8, May 22, June 5 and June 19, 2009. These closures include all court offices, including clerk of district court offices and the office of the clerk of the supreme court. All court personnel except judges and magistrates will take unpaid leave on these dates. Judges and magistrates will work in their chambers on days the courts are closed.
2. In light of these court closures, beginning on March 24, 2009, all offices of the clerks of the district courts shall be closed to the public from 2:30 p.m. until close on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Such closings shall be for the purpose of allowing clerks' staffs an uninterrupted opportunity to catch up on backlogs. This directive shall remain in force until further order of the court.
3. Iowa Code section 4.1(34) (2009) provides that 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 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. In accordance with this provision and in light of the early closure to the public of clerks' offices, the deadlines specified in the statute will be extended as provided therein.

4. The previous supervisory order reducing judicial travel by 60% for the remainder of FY09 is amended as follows:

- Judges shall only travel outside of their county of domicile for court service days, specially assigned trial assignments, and criminal trials;
- Unless venue is in a county with an *officially domiciled* judge, criminal cases in which speedy trial has been waived or in which such speedy-trial deadline is not imminent shall be continued, unless the defendant is in custody or the parties have consented to move the trial to a county with an officially domiciled judge;
- In civil cases in which a trial has been set to be held in counties where the scheduled judge *is not officially domiciled*, the litigants will be offered the opportunity to move the trial to the county of the judge's *official domicile*, otherwise the trial will be continued for the balance of the fiscal year or until the current budgetary crisis subsides as noticed by order of this court;
- Travel to maintain the one judge/one family concept and to conduct juvenile court hearings is exempt from travel reduction.

5. Notwithstanding the restrictions on travel in the previous section, the chief judge of a judicial district may on a case-by-case basis assign a judge to preside over a criminal or civil trial when the compelling interests of justice so require or when the trial is held in a county where the judge resides. The chief judge may also authorize travel to hold hearings in child custody cases. The authority to exercise discretion under these circumstances shall not be used if to do so would prevent the judicial district from reducing its judge and court reporter travel expenditures by 60%.

6. No judicial branch employee who is paid an hourly wage shall be allowed to work more than his or her allocated hours in any given pay period unless authorized in advance by the district court

administrator for purposes of working at a jury trial.

7. To minimize travel expenses, the supreme court will not hold oral arguments on April 28-30, 2009. The justices will remain in their home counties and consider only cases screened for nonoral submission.
8. To minimize travel expenses, the court of appeals will modify its April oral hearing schedule. One panel comprised of judges residing in the Des Moines area will hear oral arguments in the Judicial Branch Building. A second panel of judges residing in northwest Iowa will hear cases in the Dickinson County Courthouse in Spirit Lake. A third panel of judges will remain in their home counties and consider nonoral submissions.

The court will closely monitor the fiscal situation for FY09 and FY10 in the coming weeks. In the event these cost-cutting measures prove inadequate or become unnecessary, the court will take additional steps as may be appropriate.

Dated this 27th day of February, 2009.

THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA

By Marsha Ternus  
Marsha K. Ternus, Chief Justice