FILED
MAY 08 2020
CLERK SUPREME COURT

In the Iowa Supreme Court

In the Matter of Ongoing Provisions For Coronavirus/COVID-19 Impact On Court Services	)))	**May 8, 2020 Order**

This order is intended to supplement previous supervisory orders. In the event of any conflict between past supervisory orders and this order, the provisions of this order shall prevail. The Iowa Judicial Branch continues to carefully monitor the ongoing public health situation's impact, striving to provide Iowans with access to justice while taking measures to reduce the spread of the coronavirus. Accordingly, the supreme court directs as follows pursuant to its available legal authority, including Article III, section 1 and article V, section 1 of the Iowa Constitution.

IOWA RULE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE 1.944

1. **Rule 1.944.** In accordance with Iowa Rule of Civil Procedure 1.944(1), the court recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on judicial branch services constitute an "unusual circumstance." Consequently, all cases currently subject to dismissal under rule 1.944(2) if not tried before January 1, 2021 are provided a one-time, one-year automatic extension of the deadline for commencement of trial through December 31, 2021. Rule 1.944(2) notices will not be issued this year for such cases and parties to such cases are not required to file an application for removal from the operation of rule 1.944(2). In 2021, the judicial branch will resume issuing rule 1.944(2) notices in accordance with the normal operation of the rule for all cases that have been pending over one year as of July 15, 2021.

APPELLATE ORAL ARGUMENTS

2. **Appellate Oral Arguments**. The appellate courts may proceed with oral arguments using videoconference or telephone conference at their discretion until further order of the supreme court.

FURTHER PROVISIONS RE: STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS TOLLING

3. **Statute of Limitations Tolling.** As previously ordered on April 2, 2020, any statute of limitations, statute of repose, or similar deadline for commencing an action in district court is tolled from March 17 to June 1 (76 days). Tolling means that amount of time is added to the statute of limitations or similar deadline.

4. **Expansion on Prior Supervisory Order.** The court now expands on the earlier supervisory order to direct that the 76 days of tolling will apply if the deadline for commencing the action would otherwise expire *any time from March 17, 2020 to December 31, 2020.* In other words, if the statute would otherwise run on July 7, 2020, it now runs on September 21, 2020 (76 days later). However, after December 31, 2020, any tolling will be phased out and eliminated. Thus, if the deadline for commencing the action would otherwise expire on any date from December 31, 2020 to March 16, 2021 (the 76th day of 2021), inclusive, that deadline would become March 17, 2020, and thereafter there would be no tolling at all.

THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA

By _____
Susan Larson Christensen, Chief Justice

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