

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, GALLIA COUNTY, OHIO
GENERAL DIVISION

COMMON PLEAS COURT
GALLIA COUNTY, OHIO
MARCH 18 AM 8:48

TEMPORARY ORDER IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19
(CORONAVIRUS) PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

The Gallia County Court of Common Pleas makes the following Findings of Fact:

1. On March 9, 2020, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine issued Executive Order 2020-01D "Declaring a State of Emergency" in response to growing COVID-19 public health crisis.
2. On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 to be a global "pandemic" requiring "urgent and aggressive action" to control the spread of the virus.

Based upon these Findings of Fact, the Court of Common Pleas is developing a continuum of flexible responses in case the public health crisis escalates. The continuum of responses is intended to protect public health, to maintain essential court functions, and to continue to protect the rights of all individuals subject to the authority of the Court.

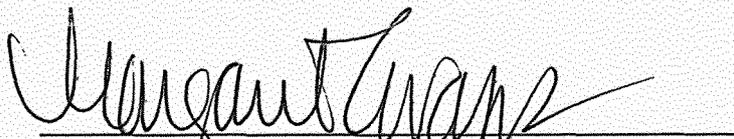
THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Local Rules of Court may be temporarily adapted to allow Court flexibility, within Constitutional limits, in response to the public health emergency.
2. The Court security policies may be temporarily amended or supplemented to protect public health while maintaining essential court functions.
3. The Employee Handbook provisions may be temporarily adjusted to maintain essential court operations and functions.
4. The Court authorizes the use of audiovisual devices and technologies for all actions and proceedings, subject to the Rules of Criminal Procedure.
5. The public health emergency may be considered to be a finding of "just cause" for continuances deemed necessary by Assigned Judges on a case-by-case basis.
6. The Court will have the lawful authority, within constitutional limits, to do and direct to be done all things necessary to ensure the orderly and efficient administration of justice for the duration of the declared public health emergency.

Additionally, attached hereto is the Court's public release statement.

The Clerk is **Ordered** to serve this Temporary Order to the Gallia County Bar Association, Adam Salisbury, President; the Gallia County Prosecutor's Office; and each member of the Gallia County Public Defenders Office.

SO ORDERED.


MARGARET EVANS, JUDGE

GALLIA COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

JUDGE MARGARET EVANS

Gallia County Courthouse
Room 1200, Locust Street
Gallipolis, Ohio 45631

Telephone 740-209-1115

Facsimile 740-441-2051

The Gallia County Common Pleas Court supports the efforts of the community to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The Court will implement the following measures to help reduce the spread of the virus but will remain open to process the business of the Court.

The Court wishes to eliminate nearly all face-to-face contact and foot traffic in the Court and in all areas of the Courthouse.

Therefore, the Court will conduct most hearings by telephone conference call or by Skype (video conferencing).

If you have a case in Common Pleas Court, you must contact your attorney and make sure he or she has a good, working telephone number at which to reach you.

If you do not have an attorney or if you need to do business with the Court, please contact the Court by telephone at 740-209-1115. We will help you determine whether you must physically appear in Court.

The Probation Department is also revamping reporting procedures. If you are on probation, contact your probation officer for information on how you can remain compliant.

The Court is committed to ensuring every participant's constitutional and statutory rights are respected and honored, including the right to a jury trial, the right to a speedy trial and any specific right to be physically present in court.

It is important that we do not panic.

However, it is prudent that we take precautions necessary to stop the spread of this virus **NOW**.

We must protect our vulnerable populations and ensure we have the resources to treat ill patients.

In general, **PLEASE STAY HOME**. Even if you are not ill, you may carry the disease.



MARGARET EVANS, JUDGE