

Probate-Juvenile Court

Division of
Court of Common Pleas
Lawrence County Court House
IRONTON, OHIO 45638

HONORABLE PATRICIA SANDERS
PROBATE — JUVENILE JUDGE

PROBATE COURT — 740-533-4343
JUVENILE COURT — 740-533-4341

3/16/2020

RE: Temporary Changes Related to COVID-19

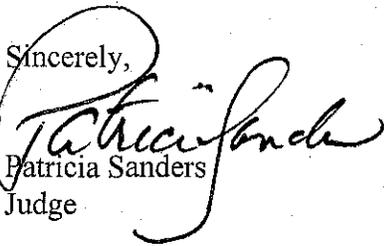
Dear Attorneys:

Until further Order of the Court, the Court will be taking temporary precautionary measures as a response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Following recommendations of the Ohio Supreme Court and Gov. Michael DeWine, the Court will be continuing all non-emergency hearings for a period of approximately thirty days. The Court will be contacting the counsel of record regarding each matter that is continued.

In an attempt to limit the number of individuals physically present at the Court House, the Court will require that all parties represented by counsel not personally attend a scheduled pre-trial or non-adjudicatory hearing, as said hearings can be conducted by their counsel. Additionally the Court recommends that all attorneys conduct any scheduled pretrial and/or non-adjudicatory hearing by phone when possible.

While the temporary changes may cause some inconvenience, the changes are necessary to protect the attorneys, parties, court staff, and the general public. I thank the attorneys in advance for their cooperation in this effort.

Sincerely,


Patricia Sanders
Judge

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**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
PROBATE-JUVENILE DIVISION
LAWRENCE COUNTY, OHIO**

**FILED
JUVENILE COURT**

2020 MAR 16 AM 11:05

**LAWRENCE CO., OHIO
PATRICIA SANDERS, JUDGE**

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

The Probate-Juvenile Division of the Lawrence 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 the 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 Probate-Juvenile Division of the Lawrence County Court of Common Pleas has developed 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. The Probate-Juvenile Division Local Rules of Court may be temporarily adapted to allow Court flexibility, within Constitutional limits, in response to the public health emergency.

2. The Probate-Juvenile Division security policies may be temporarily amended or supplemented to protect public health while maintaining essential court functions.
3. The Probate-Juvenile Division Employee Handbook provisions may be temporarily adjusted to maintain essential court operations and functions.
4. The Probate-Juvenile Division authorizes the use of audiovisual devices and technologies for all actions and proceedings.
5. The public health emergency may be considered to be a finding of good cause for continuances deemed necessary 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.


PATRICIA SANDERS, JUDGE