

In The Common Pleas Court of Licking County, Ohio
PROBATE-JUVENILE DIVISION

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

Judge Robert H. Hoover of the Licking County Court of Common Pleas, Probate-Juvenile Division make 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.
3. On March 11, 2020 the first “community transfer” positive case of COVID-19 in the State of Ohio was confirmed to be in Stark County.
4. On March 14, 2020 the Ohio Department of Health a Director’s Order to close all K-12 school to students beginning at the conclusion of the school day on Monday, March 16, 2020 through Friday, April 3, 2020.
5. On March 15, 2020 the Ohio Department of Health issued a Director’s Order to limit access to Ohio’s jails and detention facilities.
6. On March 17, 2020 the Ohio Department of Health issued a Director’s Order to prohibit mass gatherings of fifty (50) persons or more in the state of Ohio and strongly recommended that Ohioans avoid unnecessary non-family social gatherings of more than ten (10) persons.
7. On March 22, 2020 the Ohio Department of Health issued a Director’s Order that all persons are to stay at home unless engaged in essential work or activity.
8. On March 24, 2020 the Ohio Department of Health issued a Director’s Order that closed all facilities providing child care services.

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9. On March 27, 2020 Am. Sub. H.B. 197 was enacted which provides emergency relief to Ohioans and immediately tolls time deadlines and other scheduling requirements established by the Ohio Revised Code, retroactive to March 9, 2020, until the period of emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D ends or July 30, 2020.

10. On March 27, 2020 the Ohio Supreme Court issued an Entry, In re: Tolling of Time Requirements Imposed by Rules Promulgated by the Supreme Court and Use Technology, designed to complement Am. Sub H.B. 197 by immediately tolling the time requirements as established by all Supreme Court-promulgated rules, retroactive to March 9, 2020, until the period of emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D ends or July 30, 2020, whichever is sooner.

11. On March 30, 2020 the Ohio Department of Health issued a Director's Order to extend the previously issued closure of all K-12 schools to students until 11:59 p.m. on May 1, 2020.

12. On April 2, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued an Amended Director's Order to extend the previously issued "Stay at Home Order" to 11:59 p.m. on May 1, 2020.

13. On April 29, 2020 the Ohio Department of Health issued a Director's Order to extend the previously issued closure of all K-12 schools to students until 11:59 p.m. on June 30, 2020.

14. On April 30, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued a Director's Stay Safe Ohio Order which mandates that all persons stay at home unless engaged in Essential Activities, Essential Governmental Functions or to operate Essential and Unrestricted Businesses and Operations as set for in said Order which is effective until 11:59 p.m. on May 29, 2020.

Based upon these Findings of Fact, the Probate-Juvenile Division of the Court of Common Pleas has developed a continuum of flexible responses due to the escalation of the public health crisis. The extension of 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 Licking County Court of Common Pleas, Probate-Juvenile Division.

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IT IS HEREBY ORDERED EFFECTIVE MAY 2, 2020:

1. Public access to the Probate-Juvenile Division of the Licking County Court of Common Pleas, located at 1 North Park Place, Newark, Ohio will be restricted to persons with business within the Probate-Juvenile Division, including, court appearances, filing documents and payment of fees.

2. The Probate-Juvenile Division of the Licking County Court of Common Pleas remain open during normal business hours for all essential and emergent matters. Continuances of pending cases will be liberally considered by the Assigned Judge and/or Assigned Magistrate based upon the circumstances of each case and the current public health crisis. Pursuant to the Ohio Supreme Court Entry, In re: Tolling of Time Requirements Imposed by Rules Promulgated by the Supreme Court and Use Technology filed March 27, 2020 appearance by use of technology may be permitted as approved by the Assigned Judge and/or Assigned Magistrate.

3. The Juvenile Division of the Licking County Court of Common Pleas Clerk of Court's Office will be accepting filings in person, however, in an effort to limited public traffic filings will also be accepted and encouraged via regular mail or electronic mail during regular business hours only. Regular mail filings shall be sent to 1 North Park Place, 1st Floor, Newark, Ohio 43055. Electronic mail filings shall be sent to jcfilings@lcounty.com. Electronic mail filings will *not* be treated as the original and must be followed up with a true original either in person or via regular mail. Questions regarding filings and filing fees shall be directed to the Licking County Common Pleas Court Juvenile Division Clerk's Office at (740) 670-5624.

4. The Probate Division of the Licking County Court of Common Pleas Clerk's Office will be accepting records requests, including for certified copies of marriage records, in person, however, in an effort to limited public traffic said requests will also be accepted and encouraged via telephone at (740) 670-5624 and regular mail. Arrangements may be made to submit said request via electronic mail by calling (740) 670-5624.

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5. The Probate Division of the Licking County Court of Common Pleas will be issuing marriage licenses by appointment only. Appointments will be scheduled for Monday, Wednesday or Friday between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and may be made by calling (740) 670-5624. The Chief Deputy Clerk of the Juvenile-Probate Division of the Licking County Court of Common Pleas has discretion to limit the number of appointments scheduled each day to protect public health while maintaining this essential court function.

6. Security Personnel located at the entrance checkpoint and throughout the Courthouse are granted authority to question persons regarding the state of their health for purpose of ascertaining the existence of health safety risks to those present within the Courthouse. Additional security policies may be temporarily amended or supplemented by the Director of Security to protect public health while maintaining essential court functions.

7. The Local Rules of Court, Court Policies, Employee Handbook provisions of the Probate-Juvenile Division of the Licking County Court of Common Pleas may be temporarily adapted to allow Court flexibility, within Constitutional limits, in response to the public health emergency.

8. The Probate-Juvenile Division of the Licking County Court of Common Pleas 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.

The aforementioned modifications and restrictions supersede the Amended Temporary Order in Response to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Public Health Crisis filed on April 9, 2020 and shall remain in effect until modified by further Order of the Probate-Juvenile Division of the Licking County Court of Common Pleas or otherwise rescinded,

Judge Robert H. Hoover
Licking County Probate-Juvenile Court

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