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TRACY M OVERMYER

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

In Re:

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

The Judges of the General Division of the Common Pleas Court of Sandusky, County, Ohio, makes the following Findings of Fact and Administrative Order:

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 General Division of the Court of Common Pleas will develop a continuum of flexible responses in case the public health crisis escalates or increases in size and scope. 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 courts.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. It is the intention of the General Division of the Common Pleas Court of Sandusky County Ohio to remain open and maintain essential court operations and functions, subject to further Orders of the Court.
2. The Rules of Court may be temporarily adapted to allow Court flexibility, within Constitutional limits, in response to the public health emergency.
3. The security policies may be temporarily amended or supplemented to protect public health while maintaining essential court functions.

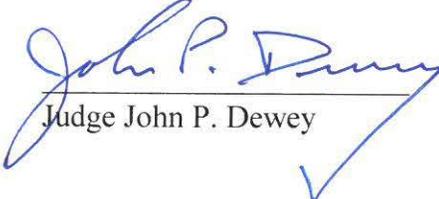
4. The Court hereby authorizes the use of audiovisual devices and technologies for all actions and proceedings which would be feasible for use based upon the nature of the action or proceeding involved.
5. The public health emergency identified herein may be considered to be a finding of good cause for granting of continuances of jury trials, court trials, and hearings as deemed necessary by the Judge 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.
7. The Court will maintain common sense procedures in dealings with the members of the bar and the public such as social distancing as appropriate and conducting our business remotely when practical, to reduce contact personally when other means such as phone conferences would accomplish the means to keep all parties healthy.
8. The Court will work with staff to take steps to maintain work areas in a clean and sanitized manner.
9. The Court will work with security staff to look into means to identify sick individuals who will be entering the courthouse and take appropriate actions to ensure a healthy work environment.
10. Unless otherwise determined by the judge assigned to the case, jury trials, both criminal and civil, are suspended for four weeks commencing the week of March 16, 2020, or for the duration of the emergency. Further, no non-essential matters shall be heard by the Court during this four week period, unless they can be conducted via teleconferencing. Parties and/or attorneys in any non-essential matters should contact the chambers of the judge assigned to their case if they have any questions and/or need to ensure compliance with this Order.
11. The Sandusky County Clerk of Courts shall conduct business in the clerk's offices, with essential personnel only, as determined by the clerk, and may determine to conduct the receipt of filings or other transactions via mail or fax.
12. When the emergency subsides, the Court shall enter an order declaring an end to the emergency and a resumption of normal operations.
13. The Grand Jury for the January Term 2020 shall not be discharged, but service shall be extended and maintained until further order of the Court.

14. This “Temporary Order” is ordered to be served on the Supreme Court of Ohio, Ohio Judicial Conference, Fremont, Ohio Municipal Court, Bellevue, Ohio Municipal Court, Sandusky County Courts No. 1 & 2, Sandusky County Clerk of Courts, Sandusky County Adult Probation Department, Sandusky County Bar Association, Sandusky County Prosecutor’s Office, Sandusky County Sheriff, Sandusky County Department of Health, Sandusky County Commissioners, Sandusky County website, Facebook and media.
15. The Sandusky County Sheriff shall post this “Temporary Order” on his public notification site and in the courthouses throughout the County.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Judge Jeremiah S. Ray



Judge John P. Dewey