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COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
TUSCARAWAS COUNTY, OHIO

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JEANNE M. STEPHEN
CLERK OF COURTS

**In the Court of Common Pleas,
General Trial Division
Tuscarawas County, Ohio**

Case number: 2020 SP 01 0001

**June 11, 2020 Temporary Orders in Response to the
COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Public Health Crisis**

The Judges of the General Trial Division of the Tuscarawas County Court of Common Pleas 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 16, 2020 the Tuscarawas County Board of Commissioners closed county buildings to general public access until April 6, 2020 or further order.
4. On March 22, 2020 the Director of the Ohio Department of Health issued a Stay at Home Order, excepting essential governmental functions, which include the official functions of judges, court personnel, jurors and grand jurors, and law enforcement.
5. As of this date, the State of Emergency has not been lifted.

Based upon these Findings of Fact, the General Trial Division of the Court of Common Pleas issues this continuum of court responses. 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.

Given the severity of the health risk to the public and Governor's Declaration, the Court issues the following orders:

1. The court will be open to general public access effective June 15, 2020.
2. All persons will be screened by the Security Deputies, required to wear face masks unless exempted by public health regulations, and shall maintain a social distance from others in the building.
3. The following court operations and functions are unsuspended beginning June 15, 2020:
 - a. Time-sensitive civil and criminal jury trials, in-person mediation conferences, in-person probation officer-offender meetings, and in-person treatment sessions.
4. In addition to certain in-person hearings and trials, the Court will continue to conduct certain proceedings by videoconference or telephone. For information about whether individual court proceedings will be in person or via technology, court staff should be contacted prior to the hearing or trial.
5. The Clerk of Court will continue to accept fax filings to 330-343-4682 and emailed filings to clerkfiling@co.tuscarawas.oh.us. These will be accepted notwithstanding the published rule regarding court cost deposits. The Clerk accepts hand-delivered documents at the Clerk of Courts Legal Office or Title Office.
6. When the judges conclude that the public health emergency has sufficiently abated, they will enter an order resuming normal operations.


Edward Emmett O'Farrell
Administrative Judge
6/10/2020


Elizabeth Lehigh Thomakos
Presiding Judge

CC: Clerk of Court, Judge Linda Kate, Tuscarawas County Sheriff, Prosecutor, Public Defender, CSEA, Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services, Bar Association, COMPASS, Inc., Local Media