

FILED

MAY 29 2020

**JUDGE
ALBERT S. CAMPLESE**

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
ASHTABULA COUNTY, OHIO
PROBATE DIVISION**

In Re:

**ORDER DECLARING A JUDICIAL EMERGENCY
AND CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS OF
THE COURT DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC
[Fifth Addendum re: Court procedures and rules]**

) **Case No: 2020 MI 13**
)
)
) **JOURNAL ENTRY**
)
)

The Court finds the Governor of Ohio, Michael DeWine, declared a State of Emergency in Executive Order 2020-01D, and the Director of the Ohio Department of Health, Amy Acton, has declared there currently exists a "...high probability of widespread exposure to COVID-19 with a significant risk of substantial harm to a large number of people in the general population, including elderly people and people with weakened immune systems and chronic medical conditions" by Director's Order issued March 16, 2020.

The Court further finds Director Acton subsequently issued a "Director's Stay at Home Order," on March 22, 2020, effective through 11:59 o'clock p.m. on May 29, 2020.

The Court further finds Director Acton subsequently terminated the above-referenced "Director's Stay at Home Order" on April 30, 2020, and instituted a "Director's Stay Safe Ohio Order" which remains effective through 11:59 o'clock p.m. on May 29, 2020.

The Court further finds Director Acton subsequently rescinded and modified portions of the above-referenced director's order by issuing a "Director's Order that Rescinds and Modifies Portions of the Stay Safe Ohio Order" on May 20, 2020.

The Court further finds the Ashtabula County Probate Court cannot yet safely restore normal court operations due to the public health concerns identified in the above-referenced COVID-19 orders and directives. All orders previously issued by this Court pursuant to authority conferred by this Court's *Order Declaring a Judicial Emergency and Continuity of Operations of the Court Due to COVID-19 Pandemic Judgment Entry*, filed March 17, 2020 should extended, and remain in effect, unless otherwise modified herein.

The Ashtabula County Common Pleas Court, Probate Division [hereinafter "Probate Court"], provides the following information, and temporarily modifies routine Court procedures and Local Rules of Court as follows:

1. The court remains **OPEN WITH RESTRICTIONS**. Any individual entering the Probate Court for any reason authorized by this Court's prior orders must wear a face covering while conducting business in, on and about the Probate Court. All persons shall allow their temperature to be taken, and shall fill-out a Health/COVID-19 symptom questionnaire before entering the clerk's area or courtroom(s) of the Probate Court. Any person with business before the court must wait in the public hallway until a clerk and/or courtroom is available. Access to a courtroom shall be restricted to parties, attorneys and necessary witnesses. **No observers or guests shall be permitted access without express prior approval.** Payments to the court must be in exact cash, money order or credit card. Probate Court employees shall wear a face covering during the duration of his/her interaction with any person conducting business with the court. All parties are required to maintain safe hygiene practices, to wit: regular hand washing, sanitizing and social distancing.

a) Marriage Licenses

- i. "In-person" marriage license applications shall be submitted to the Court by appointment only. "In-person" appointments are available on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and may be arranged by contacting the Clerk's Office via telephone, email and/or facsimile.
- ii. "Walk-in" applicants are required to furnish proof of identification at the time of appointment, and must complete

the marriage license application in its entirety before a marriage license will be issued.

- iii. Applicants must abide by all public safety measures required in the office, and are encouraged to consider using the virtual application process rather than applying in person.

2. SUBJECT TO FURTHER MODIFICATION

This order shall be, and hereby is, subject to further modification.

3. SERVICE OF JUDGMENT ENTRY

This "Temporary Order" is ordered to be served on the Supreme Court of Ohio, Ashtabula County Prosecutor's Office, the Ashtabula County and Lake County Bar Associations, Ashtabula County Childrens Services Board, Catholic Charities of Ashtabula County and the media. A copy of this judgment shall be posted in the Probate Court Clerk's Office, and shall be published on the website of the Probate Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



JUDGE ALBERT S. CAMPLESE