

IN THE CONNEAUT MUNICIPAL COURT
ASHTABULA COUNTY, OHIO

IN RE:)	Case No. 21 MIS 5
)	
<u>FOURTEENTH EMERGENCY ORDER</u>)	
IN RESPONSE TO THE)	<u>JUDGMENT ENTRY</u>
COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS))	
PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS)	
(COURT OPERATIONS AND)	
LOCAL RULES OF COURT)	JUNE 8, 2021
MODIFIED))	
)	

On July 6, 2020, this Court issued a Judgment Entry establishing the conduct of security monitoring and inspection of all persons entering the Conneaut City Hall and Conneaut Municipal Court building (“Complex”). Further, on May 17, 2021, this Court issued its “Thirteenth Emergency Order in Response to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Public Health Crisis (Court Operations and Local Court Rules Modified).” This Judgment Entry is being issued as a result of expiration of the State of Ohio Department of Health orders relating to COVID-19.

Except as otherwise provided herein, the Court hereby issues this Judgment Entry which will supersede **both** of the referenced prior orders and shall become **effective on Wednesday, June 9, 2021**. The July 6, 2020 and March 2, 2021 judgment entries shall remain in effect prior to June 9, 2021.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, **effective on Tuesday, June 9, 2021** and subject to further order of the Court thereafter, the operation of the Court and the Local Rules of Court are modified herein as follows:

Security

Court security staff employed by the Court shall conduct security monitoring, screening and inspection of **all persons** and any purses, handbags, backpacks, pocketbooks, and other bags they are carrying upon entry into the Complex. Court security staff shall be located in the first-

floor lobby at the entrance doors of the Complex and shall utilize walk-through metal detection equipment and/or a metal detection wand to check **all persons** entering the Complex. Other than commissioned law enforcement officers or Court personnel, no persons shall be permitted entry into the Complex if they possess on their person or in any purse, handbag, backpack, pocketbook, or other bag any weapon, which includes but is not limited to firearms, knives, ammunition, dangerous ordnance or hand combat weapons, and other impermissible items in violation of applicable security policies. Failure by any defendant to comply with the security screening protocol of this Court will be treated as a failure by the defendant to appear for the scheduled hearing.

The costs associated with employment of Court security staff shall be shared equally between the Court, utilizing the Court Improvement funds, and the City of Conneaut.

Health Monitoring/Screening and Masks

While it is strongly recommended for persons who have not been vaccinated, all persons appearing for Court purposes in the Complex shall **not** be required to wear masks or face coverings and shall not be subject to health screening, including having their temperature checked. As long as supplies last, masks will be available at the Court security desk for those who choose to wear masks and do not have a mask or other face covering with them. The temperature equipment shall continue to be located at and utilized by the Court security desk for those who voluntarily seek to be screened.

Utilization of Whereby.com

The Court is and has been utilizing equipment and technology, including the video-conferencing system known as *whereby.com*, in order to conduct as many virtual hearings and conferences as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Court encourages the conduct of virtual hearings and conferences, when possible, *but reserves the right to determine which and*

when such virtual hearings and conferences shall be conducted. Any attorney and/or party who believes a hearing and conference should be conducted virtually shall immediately file with the Clerk of Courts a written motion or request to do so, along with a proposed Judgment Entry. If the Court grants the motion or request, the Clerk of Courts shall provide the parties and all witnesses, victim(s), victim representative(s), and other persons, whose presence is necessary, to conduct the hearing the Court's *whereby.com* link so that all necessary persons are able to virtually attend the hearing or conference.

The Court reserves the right to order all parties, attorneys, and other persons, who are technologically able to do so, to attend any hearing utilizing *whereby.com*.

Courtroom

Until further order of the Court, there are no further limitations on the number of persons located in the Courtroom at the same time. All persons are encouraged to view court proceedings on the Court's YouTube channel at:

<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCeDO-0hk8TDPRE4RI0vtoAQ/about>

Criminal and Civil: Jury Trials

All jury trials, both criminal and civil, shall proceed unless otherwise ordered in a specific case. If necessary, the Court may adopt a separate order in a particular case detailing the health and safety procedures associated with jury selection and the conduct of the jury trial at least five (5) days before any scheduled jury trial.

The Court hereby reserves the right to modify or terminate this Judgment Entry at any time.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Nicholas A. Iarocci

NICHOLAS A. IAROCCI, JUDGE
CONNEAUT MUNICIPAL COURT