

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: JUDGE SPEES
AUGLAIZE COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT
PROBATE, JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISIONS

Due to the relaxing of Covid-19 rules, effective May 1, 2020 to May 31, 2020, the following changes will take effect:

1. The Court will not conduct any contested hearings involving more than one or two witnesses, unless specifically authorized.
2. All pretrials and final pretrials will be continued to be conducted by telephone conference only. Court staff will contact the attorney's office involved to initiate the pretrial or final pretrial telephonic conference.
3. There will be no hearings set at the same time and instead, hearings will be given a specific time with enough time scheduled between hearings to allow the scheduled hearing to go to completion and the parties and counsel to vacate the building before the next hearing begins.
4. No presentation hearings will be scheduled but counsel will be required to file Entries on a date certain. Remember, fax filings and email filings are authorized. Probate/Juvenile Court Fax 419-738-1061 and Civil Criminal/Domestic Relations Fax 419-739-6768 or email to juvprobdom@auglaizecounty.org.
5. Social distancing will be maintained and only counsel and parties will be permitted in the building and at the hearing. In juvenile cases, only one parent will appear with the child. In all hearings, parties and counsel are free to wear gloves or masks in their discretion.
6. The Court will proceed as usual with children detained, abuse, neglect and dependency matters, domestic violence civil protection orders, cases with emergency orders, involuntary commitments, emergency guardianships and marriage license applications.
7. Members of the public wishing to get copies of documents in the possession of the court, must contact the court ahead of time and make an appointment to get the documents requested.
8. Members of the public, counsel, parties or others having business with the court are encouraged to contact the court prior to any appearance if they are immunocompromised, carrying a fever, or displaying symptoms of the virus, so that their appearance before the court may be otherwise rescheduled.
9. Any other matters may be considered on a case by case basis. This procedure will remain in effect until May 31, 2020 subject to further extension or more serious restriction should circumstances dictate.

The Court is simply attempting to limit and contain any potential spread of Coronavirus by limiting person's contact with one another and others through court proceedings.

Cc: Adult Probation; Clerk of Courts; Common Pleas Court, General Division; Law Library; Municipal Court; Prosecuting Attorney; Public Defender; Victim Assistance; Courthouse Security; Sheriff; Title Department; Auditor; Board of Elections; Commissioners; Extension Office; Recorder; Technology; Treasurer; Veterans; Job and Family Services; All Attorneys.